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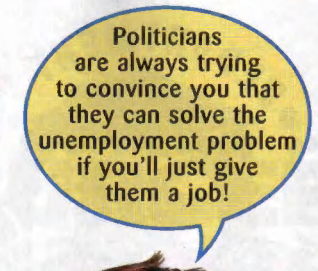
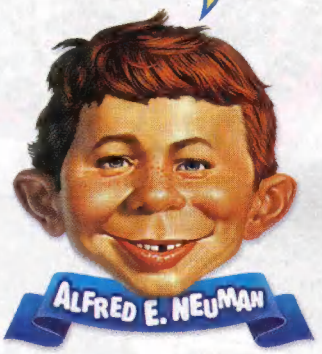
MAD

OCTOBER 2005 NUMBER 458


Politicians are always trying to convince you that they can solve the unemployment problem if you'll just give them a job!



DEPARTMENTS

LETTERS AND TOMATOES DEPARTMENT:
Random Samplings of Reader Mail 2

RANDOM ACTS OF MINDLESS DEPARTMENT:
The Fundalini Pages 8

A WIFE-ALTERING EXPERIENCE DEPARTMENT:
Selected Scenes from *Trading Spouses*: Special Animated Edition 12

IN BLOG WE TRUST DEPARTMENT:
Planet Tad!!!!! 16

SOLDIERS OF MISFORTUNE DEPARTMENT:
Little Green Army Men of Today's Army 20

RALL OR NOTHING DEPARTMENT:
7 Periods Closer to Death 22

THE LONGEST YAWN DEPARTMENT:
A Day in the Life of Adam Sandler 24

SERGE-IN GENERAL DEPARTMENT:
A MAD Look at School Security 26

DRAMA SUTRA DEPARTMENT:
Favorite Sexual Positions as Chosen by Shakespearean Scholars 28

ANGSTER'S PARADISE DEPARTMENT:
Monroe and...The Hospital Stay 33

QUAHOG WILD DEPARTMENT:
MAD's Exclusive Backstage Tour of the *Family Guy* 38

OUT OF CONTROLLERS DEPARTMENT:
If There Were No Such Things as Video Games 42

SHOW-FLOPPERS DEPARTMENT:
MAD's Fall TV Preview: 2005 45

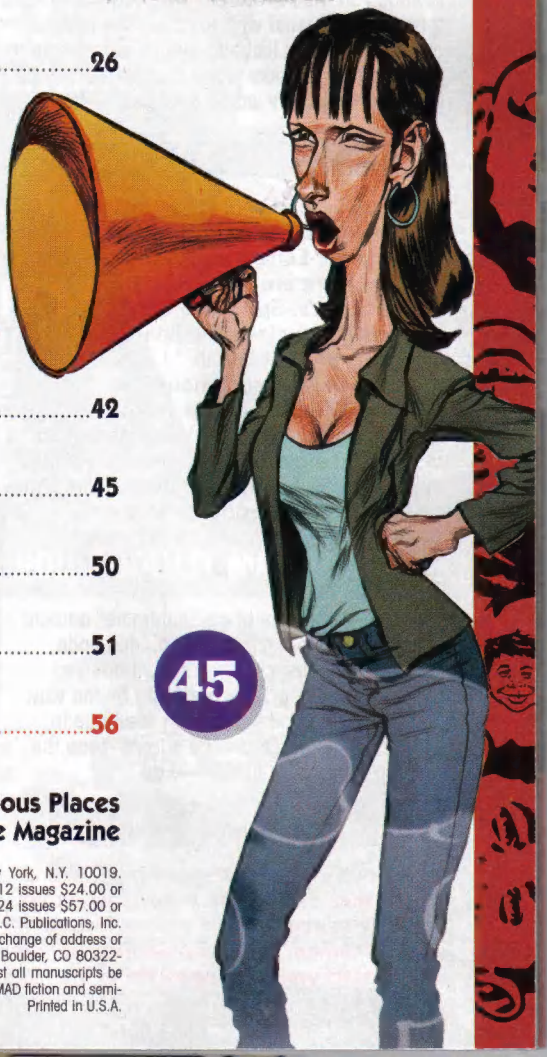
JOKE AND DAGGER DEPARTMENT:
Spy Vs. Spy 50

LICENSE TO SHILL DEPARTMENT:
Go Fetch! 51

NO CRUISE IS GOOD CRUISE DEPARTMENT:
"Bore of The Worlds" (A MAD Movie Satire) 56

MARGINAL THINKING DEPARTMENT:
"Drawn Out Dramas" by Sergio Aragones ..... **Various Places Around the Magazine**

42



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DEPARTMENT • AND • TOMATOES • LETTERS

MAIL TO THE CHIEF

Recently, we received this remarkable piece of correspondence from a particularly important and notable MAD reader:

Usual Gang of Idiots — You should be very proud of yourself on your 100th Monroe episode

Cordially as always, former Monroe Fan Club President Ken McClelland, Reston, VA

Dear Mr. President —

We will add your recent greeting card to the growing archives to be placed in the McClelland Monroe Fan Club Presidential Library...or into a trash bin. At least with the trash bin option, our cleaning lady, Isabelle, will be sure to see it — which is one more viewer than the McClelland Presidential Library would ever get! —Ed.

CONSPIRACY QUERY

I am convinced your Magazine contains hidden codes. For exAmple, within MAD #454, in the Letters and Tomatoes section, there are instructions on "How to Win Spy Vs. Spy Video Game." At the very enD, you claim the final sequence of woRds are "gibberish." I however, refuse to believe such nonsense and have spent an inordinate amoUnt of time (at work mind you) attempting to decipher the hidden code within. I would appreciate it if within the next issue you couLd reveal the code, or at the very least, providE a key to its Solution!

Joe Morais, Dracut, MA

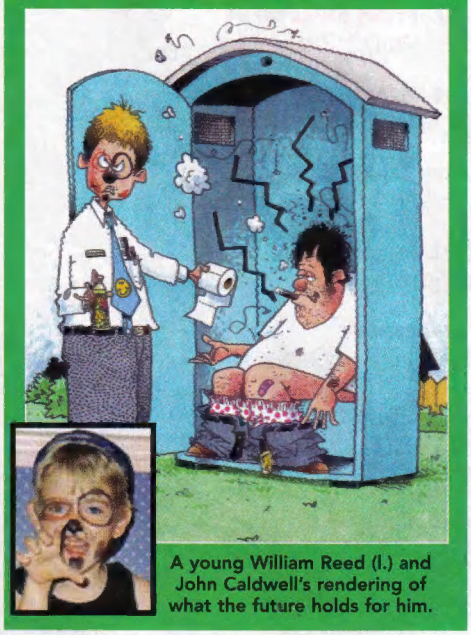
Joey Joe — You spent an "inordinate" amount of time tryinG to decipher thE hidden code while aT work? Boy, we certAinLy hope you dIdn't let the deep Fryer overhEat! By the way, See if you Can find tHe hidden Message in oUr reply. Good luCk and be sure to Keep the ketchup dispensers filled! —Ed.

READER ALERT

Hey clods — if you're sending in a digital photo that you want to see on the Letters Page, we beg you to please include a phone number or e-mail address so we can contact you for a digital file of the pic. Thanks and happy sending!

THE BIG PLEDGER

Back in MAD #455 we asked readers to pledge money and make career suggestions to keep William Reed out of the teaching profession. The response was overwhelming, but the winning choice was...Porta-Potty Bathroom Attendant! So Billy, roll up your sleeves and don't forget to light a match! We should point out that we received several noteworthy write-in votes as well, including Road Kill Remover, Michael Jackson's Butler and Hospital Rectal Thermometer Cleaner. With so many wonderful options available, Willy-Boy, the world is your oyster!



A young William Reed (l.) and John Caldwell's rendering of what the future holds for him.

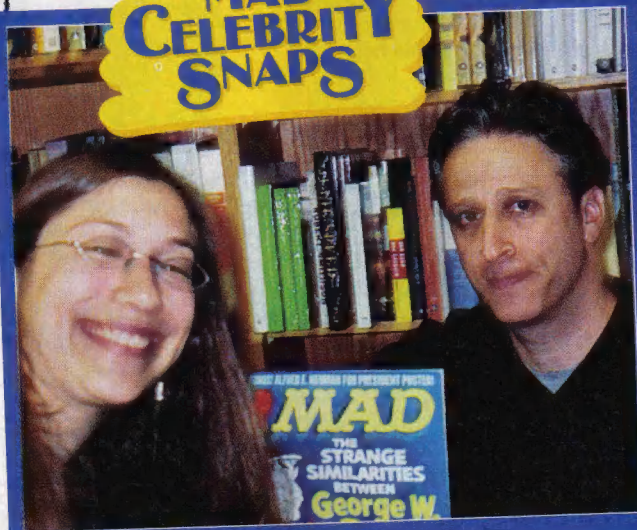
HOMAGE SWEET HOMAGE

On behalf of my Pop-Pop, James T. Eustace, I just wanted to thank you for 20 years of service. As soon as I learned to read, my grandfather introduced me to MAD magazine. He would save all the issues he had and pass them on to me in perfect condition...except for the MAD Fold-in, which would be permanently creased (As a five-year-old, I preferred this because at that age I could never line the arrows up right!) He had issues from before I was born that he would give to me. He had the MAD magazine board game. When he wasn't subscribing to MAD, we would go to the grocery store together and pick up the issue of MAD. If I was lucky, he'd buy me the "Super" issues that would keep me entertained for the weekend. I still have most of those issues that he gave me from the early 80s. I read them today and they are just as funny as they were 20 years ago. Right before he had quadruple bypass surgery, he had the attitude of "What, me worry?" and assured me that he had a few MAD magazines at home that he needed to give to me. A few days later, he passed away. I wore my Alfred E. Neuman tie to work that day in my own way of remembering. A few days ago, my grandfather's wife gave me the last couple of issues that my Pop-Pop never got a chance to give to me. This was the first time I had ever received a MAD magazine from him where the Fold-in had no creases. I vow to you, and my grandfather, to keep the tradition of sharing MAD magazines with my children and my children's children in honor of Pop-Pop. I was hoping you could print this letter to pay him one last MAD tribute.

Justin Pugh, Joppa, MD

And Justin For All — It's right about now where we would usually make fun of the writer of the letter. But your tribute was so damn Hallmark-y, that we just couldn't do it to you. So instead, we're just going to raise a glass of Monkey Juice to Pop-Pop! —Ed.

MAD CELEBRITY SNAPS



I snapped this picture of Jon Stewart holding my MAD last week while he was in town signing copies of his new book.

Sharon Green, Washington D.C.

P.S. I have been reading MAD for 15 years or so. I love it, and all my friends are always borrowing my copies. Do I get a free subscription for this? I hope so! Thanks for all the laughs.

Sharebear — Jon looks delighted to be posing with a copy of MAD rather than a copy of oh, we don't know... his own book? But the good news is, by pissing off Jon, you managed to get yourself a three-year MAD subscription. Bango! —Ed.

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RANT CONTROL

I've been reading your pitiful magazine since I was eight years old. I'm now 53, so for at least 30 years I've been subjecting my brain to irreparable harm. Did you know that when you read "MAD" backwards it almost says "ADAM?" Isn't that spooky weird? Whatever became of the concept of "Scratch 'N Sniff" fun pages? Well, gotta go for now – the whole ward is going to plant pinecones in the river!

Bill Martin, Spokane, WA

Martini — We couldn't make any sense out of your letter, so we passed it on to Joe "Code Breaker" Morais, and lo and behold he was able to decipher the following message. —Ed

I've been reading your pitiful Magazine since I wAs eigHt years old. I'm now 53, so for at least 30 years I've been sUbjectinG my brain to irrEparable harm. Did yoU know that when you read "MAD" Backwards it almost says "ADAM?" Isn't that spooky weird? Whatever became of the concept of "Scratch 'N Sniff" fun pages? Well, gotta go for now — the whole ward is going to plant pinecones in the river!

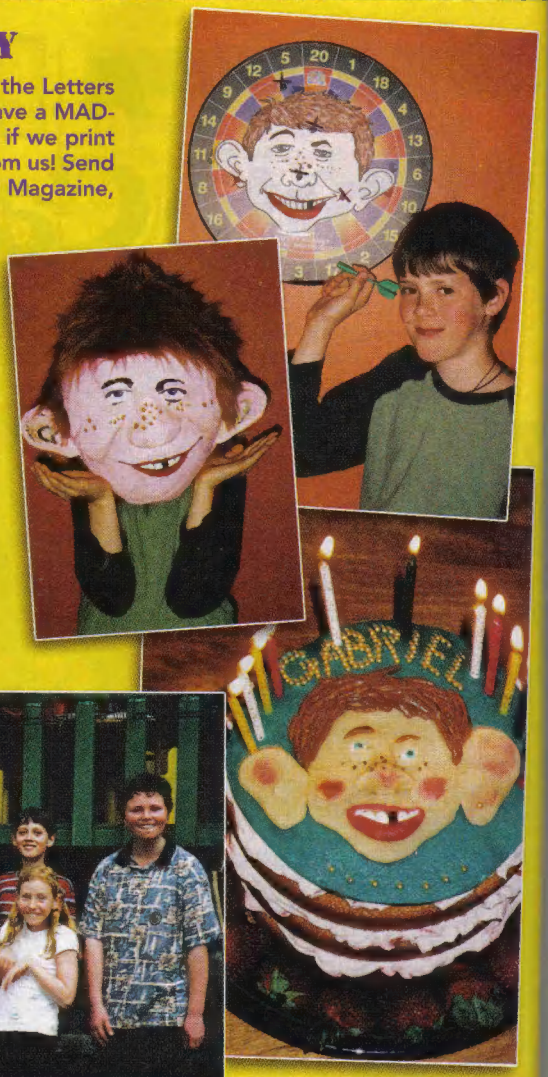
THE MAD PARTY

We're starting a brand new feature for the Letters Page called "The MAD Party." If you have a MAD-themed party, send in the pictures and if we print them, you'll get a special party favor from us! Send them to Amy "The Big Party" c/o MAD Magazine, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019.

Our first winner comes from "party boy" Gabriel Newman-Hogan of Ontario, Canada who writes:

I have been reading MAD for years and credit the mag with my warped world view. I just celebrated my 12th MAD birthday and I hoped that you might be interested in these photos.

Honest Gabe — Gee, thanks for the invitation! You threw a MAD-themed party and you didn't think to invite the MAD staff? Judging by your pictures we would have had a blast! (You did have a clown, right?) But either way...cake? We love cake! Games? We love games! Canada? We...oh well, two out of three ain't bad! Happy birthday, Gabe! —Ed.

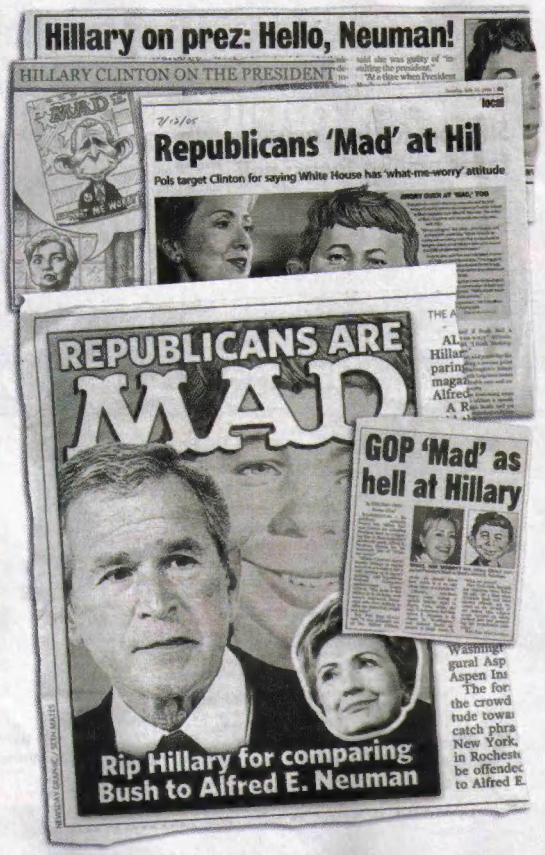


TO SPEECH HIS OWN

In a speech delivered on July 10th, New York Senator Hillary Clinton angered Republicans by comparing President Bush to our own Alfred E. Neuman saying, "I sometimes feel that Alfred E. Neuman is in charge in Washington." She added that Bush's attitude toward tough national issues was "What, me worry?"

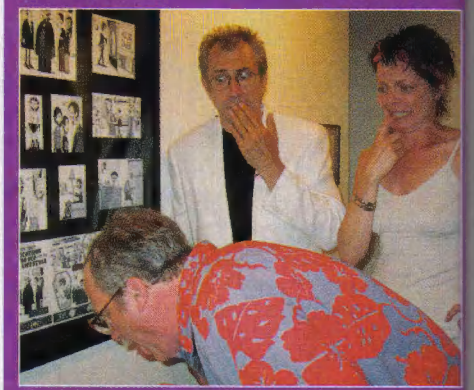
Furious Republicans immediately shot back in defense of President Bush. With Alfred's name being bandied about in such a cavalier fashion, we felt it only right to release a statement of our own defending him. "Her (Hillary Clinton's) remark is nothing more than a calculated attempt to short-circuit Alfred's widely expected 2008 presidential bid," said MAD editor John Ficarra. "Clearly, she was implying that a vote for Neuman in '08 would result in a continuation of Bush's idiotic policies when, in fact, Alfred has idiotic policies of his own." Alfred would have responded himself, but he is vacationing at his ranch in Kennebunkport.

We're willing to bet they don't have these kinds of problems over at Oprah's magazine!


Hillary on prez: Hello, Neuman!
HILLARY CLINTON ON THE PRESIDENT
Republicans 'Mad' at Hil
Pols target Clinton for saying White House has 'what-me-worry' attitude
REPUBLICANS ARE MAD
GOP 'Mad' as hell at Hillary
Rip Hillary for comparing Bush to Alfred E. Neuman

ART-TROCIOUS

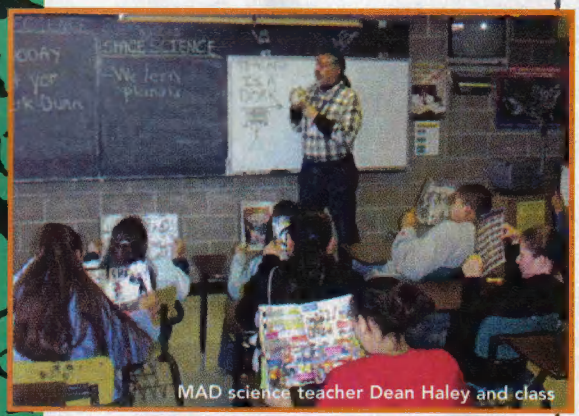
Long-time MAD artist and writer (and *Miami Vice* wardrobe enthusiast) John Caldwell recently had an exhibit of his artwork at the Albany Center Galleries in Albany, NY. The show, "Definitely Not On Loan From The Louvre: Recent Nonsense on Paper" drew massive crowds — read: 38 people...consisting mainly of MAD contributor Teresa Burns Parkhurst (looking very Olivia Newton-John-ish, we must say) and dry-heaving art lover Paul Abitabile. We're betting that what Paul "produced" was closer to art than whatever John had on the walls!



SCHOOL OF MOCK

I must take exception with your editor's comment in the May '05 issue that school is not the place to read MAD. As a high school dropout, I can attest to the influence of MAD. Where do you think I learned the truth about Watergate, or tough economic decisions like, "If I have $1, and then buy MAD for 35 cents, how much does that leave to gas my car and Saturday night's date?" I certainly didn't learn these valuable life lessons listening to my teachers! After earning my B.S. degree at Utah, I teach high school now (science — 11 years) and allow, even encourage, my students to read MAD. So here's to the next generation of MAD-literates!

Dean Haley,
Little Wound High School, Kyle, SD


MAD science teacher Dean Haley and class

Dean House Effect — We'll tell you one thing we learned from your letter, if you drop out of high school you can still scam your way into a teaching career! In fact, we got our hands on one of your typical lesson plans. What we discovered shocked and disturbed us to our very core:

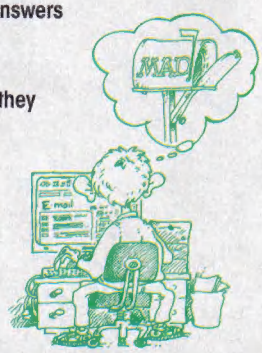
Day One: "The Fold-in: Fold back so Paleolithic 'A' meets Mesozoic 'B'"

Day Two: "Spy Vs. Spy Vs. Paramecium"

Day Three: "Snappy Answers to Stupid Geological Questions"

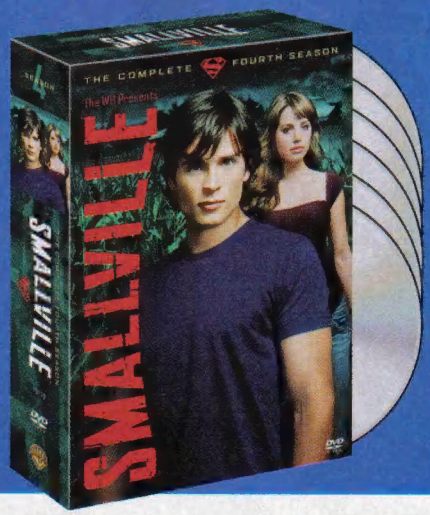
Day Four: "Tell class they are ready to drop out of high school"

Thanks for writing and we'll see you at your school board hearing! —Ed.



READER ALERT

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's a free DVD! Everyone who had their letter printed in this month's Letters Page will receive a copy of *Smallville: Season 4*, courtesy of our "friends" at Warner Home Video. For all of you losers who didn't get your letters printed, the *Smallville: Season 4* DVD is on sale September 13!



PI VS. PI

I'm not trying to be mean, but in issue #452 you have "A MAD Look at Bullies" and state that Pi is 3.1416. But really the first numbers as everyone knows are 3.14. Which is correct in your magazine. But Pi is not 3.1416 — it is actually 3.14159265358979323846264338327 to name a few. And on the teacher's blackboard it says Area $\pi \times r^2$. Really the formula is (the "multiply by" symbol should not be included) $A=\pi r^2$. Just thought you should be mathematically correct. I noticed this because we just learned this in school. And there are 1.24 trillion digits of Pi. Plus Pi goes on forever.

Will Hewitt, Westchester, NY

Living Will — After reading your letter, it seems Pi isn't the only thing that goes on forever! But we're getting off the point...it's funny you mention "A Mad Look at Bullies" because judging by your nerdfest of a letter, we can tell the following about your own interaction with them:

- **You've never held on to your lunch money long enough to actually use it for lunch.**
- **You've spent more time in your locker than your books have.**
- **You walk with a cane due to wedgie-related injuries.**

Thanks for writing, and we hope your calculator watch survived the latest pummeling during dodgeball! —Ed.

NEXT MONTH IN MAD #459 ON SALE OCTOBER 18!

ETIQUETTE GUIDE TO DATING YOUR TEACHER AND A MAD LOOK AT PIZZA!

COMING UP IN MAD CLASSICS #3 ON SALE OCTOBER 18!

OUR SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN ISSUE! INCLUDING OUR BRAND NEW BITTERMAN JACK-O-LANTERN STENCIL!

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Contributing Artists And Writers
the usual gang of idiots

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THE FUNDALINI

A CABLE NEWS DIRECTOR'S GUIDE TO SORTA NEWSWORTHY VS. VERY NEWSWORTHY

The argument between scientists and the Bush administration over greenhouse gases and global warming is **SORTA NEWSWORTHY.**

The argument between Tom Cruise and Matt Lauer over psychiatry and Scientology is **VERY NEWSWORTHY.**

Allegations of rigged elections in 2000 and 2004 are **SORTA NEWSWORTHY.**

Allegations of rigged elections on *American Idol* are **VERY NEWSWORTHY.**

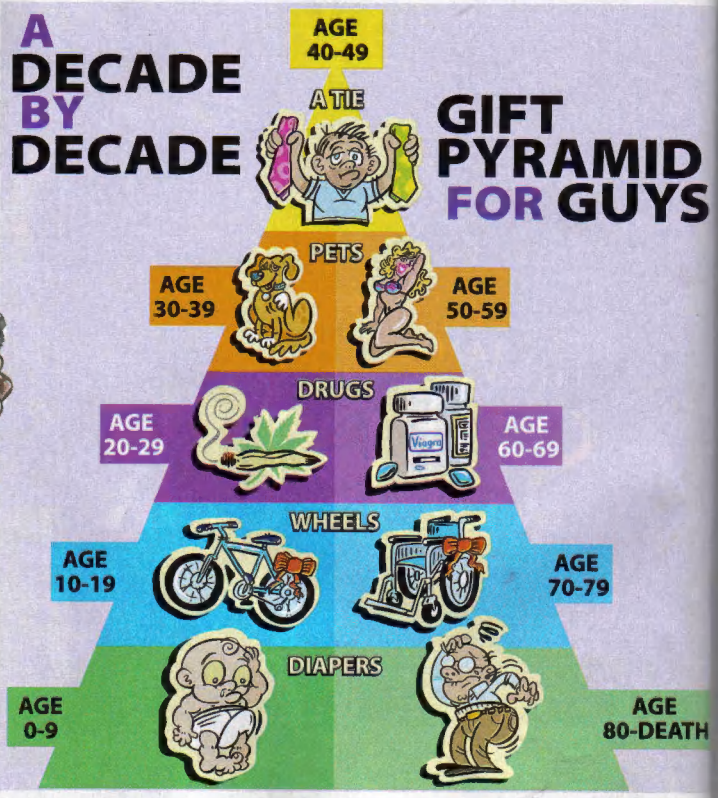
Millions squandered by Halliburton on projects in Iraq and Afghanistan is **SORTA NEWSWORTHY.**

Millions squandered by that 9/11 widow on furniture and boob jobs is **VERY NEWSWORTHY.**

The possibility that an unstable nuclear plant could blow sky-high at any minute is **SORTA NEWSWORTHY.**

The possibility that an unstable Russell Crowe could blow sky-high at any minute is **VERY NEWSWORTHY.**

A DECADE BY DECADE GIFT PYRAMID FOR GUYS



DESPERATE NEW ARMY ENTICEMENTS TO GET MORE PEOPLE TO ENLIST

1. Weekly dog-tag lottery drawings. If your number matches the one drawn, you're guaranteed one of the Humvees with full armor.

2. All sortie missions flown will be converted to Continental Frequent Flyer Miles.

3. Bring your laptops! All foxholes will have WiFi accessibility.

4. Like someone with a VIP pass at an amusement park, new recruits will enjoy special "front of the line" privileges. Whether it's the chow line, the uniform line or the front line, all new recruits will go right to the head of it!

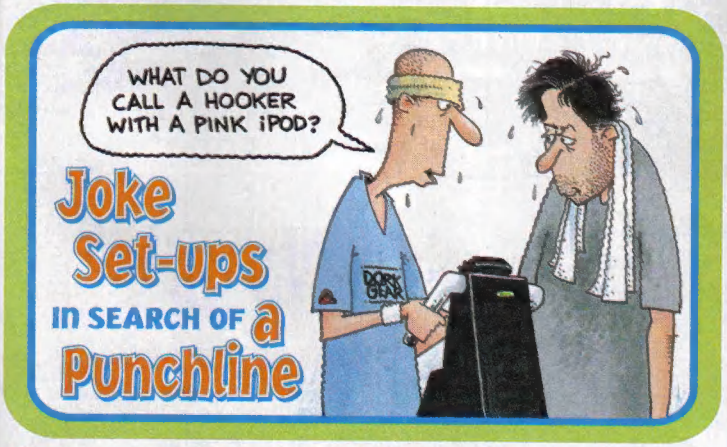
5. Upon signing, all recruits will have a choice of a free promotional gift including a Donald Rumsfeld bobblehead doll, a Halliburton Humvee seat cushion or a special collector's edition Batman comic where the Dark Knight battles Al Qaeda terrorists.

6. A made-for-TV movie about your war service will be produced and aired on the Hallmark Channel, written by the same people who fabricated Jessica Lynch's war story.

7. No more complicated enlistment forms! Just sign at the "X" and you're in!

Joke Set-ups IN SEARCH OF a Punchline

PAGES



Let Me Clean Your Aquarium! With bleach. C'mon. Fish are loser pets anyway. C'moooooon! **Stu 555-3753**

Crackerjack Tattoo Removal All work performed in my bathroom with a cotton ball and a bottle of rubbing alcohol. **Mom – 555-6797**

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MEDICAL MARIJUANA Dude! Glaucoma rocks! Call for appointment with physician or just drop by and hang out. Just be cool, you know? Westside Caregiver's Group & Smoker's Emporium 246 Hemphill St. **555-9677**

HARRASSMENT AT WORK? Protect that sweet ass of yours. We can get you enough $$$ so you can get out of the workplace where you don't belong anyway. No fatties. Law Offices of **Marvin Grope 555-1566**

CELEBRITY CAUSE-OF-DEATH BETTING ODDS

This month: LINDSAY LOHAN

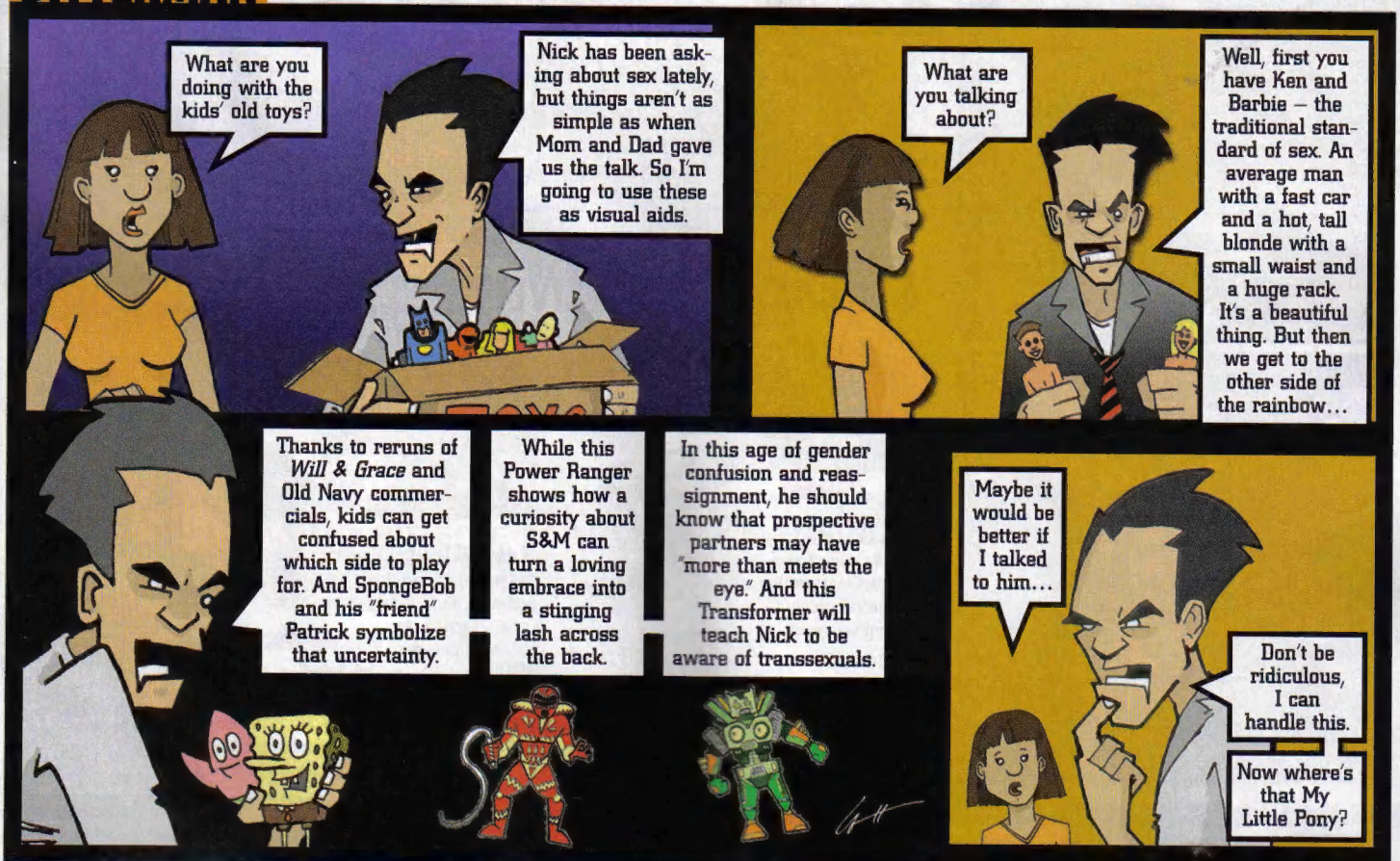
OUR TEAM OF CRACK ODDSMAKERS GIVES YOU THE LATEST VEGAS LINE ON HOW ONE OF TODAY'S BIGGEST STARS WILL MEET HER DEMISE!

CAUSE OF DEATH	ODDS
Skull fracture from continually slapping own forehead every time her crazy dad makes it into the media	2:1
Hair dye-poisoning from weekly color change	10:1
Consumed by own plague-like, uncontrollably-spreading freckles	20:1
Fatal fall onto face, due to "top-heaviness"	30:1
Gunned down by paparazzi just so they can get photos of her all shot up and bloody	1,000:1
Metal polish-poisoning from constantly shining the Oscar she wins for *Herbie: Fully Loaded*	35,000,000,000:1

THE GODFREY REPORT

IN	FIVE MINUTES AGO	OUT
Scuffles	Brawls	Shoving Matches
Hassocks	Ottomans	Footstools
Proclamations	Decrees	Fiats

BITTERMAN


What are you doing with the kids' old toys?
Nick has been asking about sex lately, but things aren't as simple as when Mom and Dad gave us the talk. So I'm going to use these as visual aids.
What are you talking about?
Well, first you have Ken and Barbie – the traditional standard of sex. An average man with a fast car and a hot, tall blonde with a small waist and a huge rack. It's a beautiful thing. But then we get to the other side of the rainbow...
Thanks to reruns of *Will & Grace* and Old Navy commercials, kids can get confused about which side to play for. And SpongeBob and his "friend" Patrick symbolize that uncertainty.
While this Power Ranger shows how a curiosity about S&M can turn a loving embrace into a stinging lash across the back.
In this age of gender confusion and reassignment, he should know that prospective partners may have "more than meets the eye." And this Transformer will teach Nick to be aware of transsexuals.
Maybe it would be better if I talked to him...
Don't be ridiculous, I can handle this.
Now where's that My Little Pony?

THE FUNDALINI PAGES

THE PUZZLE NOOK

Which of the 5 choices best completes this phrase?

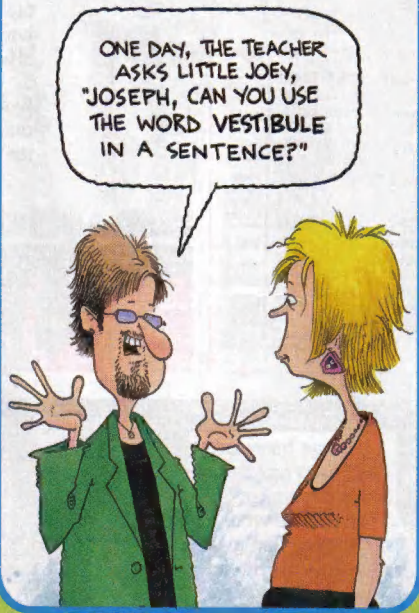
_?_TY IS THE BEST POLICY

1. HONES___
2. PROMISCUI___
3. NO CURTAINS IN A SORORI___
4. NOT PRIVATIZING SOCIAL SECURI___
5. IGNORING SEAN HANNI___

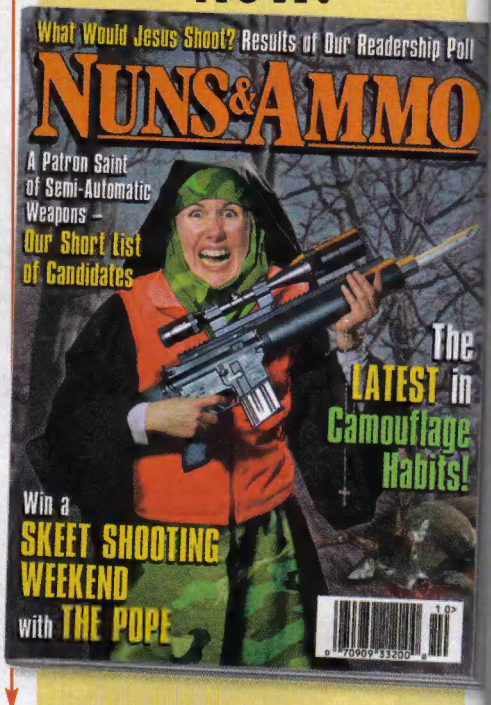
VEY TO GO!

THE PRESIDENT'S DOG

Joke Set-ups IN SEARCH OF a Punchline



ON NEWSSTANDS NOW!


What Would Jesus Shoot? Results of Our Readership Poll
NUNS&AMMO
A Patron Saint of Semi-Automatic Weapons – Our Short List of Candidates
The LATEST in Camouflage Habits!
Win a SKEET SHOOTING WEEKEND with THE POPE

A FUNDALINI EXCLUSIVE!

Now That the Secret Identity of Watergate's Deep Throat Has Been Revealed, Other Long-Held Secret Identities Exposed!

MRS. THELMA TINKLE
The woman who always tells you that your call cannot be completed as dialed

ABNER SQUATTINGTON
The voice spewing obscene phrases on those little devices you get from novelty shop catalogs

T. M. BUTTONNECK
The person on the other end of the Verizon guy's phone, who can hear him now

DR. SAL FUNG
The one-out-of-five doctors who never recommends any medical product being advertised

VERANDA PUDDLE
Fruit of the Loom underwear inspector #14

FRIENDS OF FUNDALINI

Charles Akins · Scott Bricher · John Caldwell · Dick DeBartolo · L.P. Ferrante · Garth Gerhart · Jeff Kruse · Peter Kuper · Jacob Lambert · Scott Maiko · Hermann Mejia · Patrick Merrell · John Pound · Andrew J. Schwartzberg · Mike Snider · Ed Steckley · Jack Syracuse · P.C. Vey

What if two of television's most famous women changed places? Well, we couldn't get in touch with Mischa Barton and Leslie Stahl, so instead we present...

SELECTED SCENES FROM

Trading Spouses

SPECIAL ANIMATED EDITION: MARGE SIMPSON AND LOIS GRIFFIN

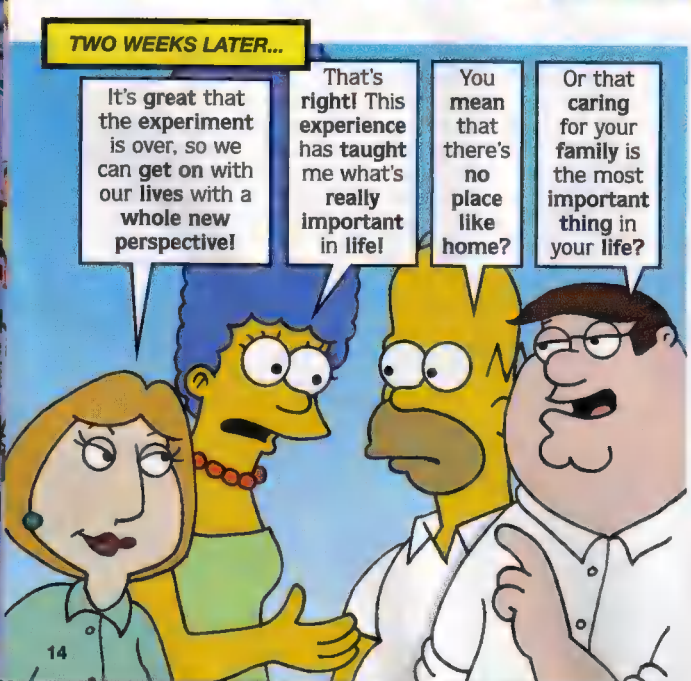
ARTIST: GARY HALLGREN WRITER: CHARLIE KADAU

Look at the size of that poor child's head! I'm so sorry, I didn't know you were sick!
I'm not sick, you simian-lipped shrew! I happen to possess a highly-developed brain!
My lord! You can talk! Does your family know this?
Uh, that's unclear...sometimes they seem to, and other times not. Even when I go on an overly-long, tiresome and not particularly interesting rant regarding my vastly superior intelligence and how I would bring death and destruction to all those around me were it not for my undeveloped musculature and lack of bowel control!
Now you sound like Homer's father! Hee hee hee!
Lady, if you think that joke was edgy, then call me Terri Schiavo and disconnect my feeding tube!
Oh my God!
You're surprised that I can talk too, right?
No! That you think that line was funny just because it was in exceedingly poor taste!
How do you do! I'm very interested in learning your family's Asian traditions!
We're not Asian!
But your skin — it's so yellow! Oh, excuse my mistake — you must all have jaundice!
This is our natural skin color!
Hmmm. Well, you do have four fingers like me, so I guess everything is OK!
You know, it'll be refreshing to get away from some of my husband's crazy schemes for a while, like when he became a Renaissance Faire jouster or bought a deep sea fishing boat!
Kids, daddy is going to become a bodyguard for the mayor, right after I spend time as a space shuttle astronaut!
What were you saying, Lois?
Uh, just how you remind me so much of my family!
Duff
Would anyone like to help me plant these seedlings in the garden?
I haven't liked gardening since I saw that movie An Officer and a Yentlman!
Thanks for rescuing me from this factory! I love you!
You'll love it on the kibbutz! One thing, though — no pork rinds!
What the hell was that?
We're not sure, either, but whenever we mention a made-up movie based on a bad pun, a scene from it suddenly appears!
And if it's from dated movies that no one even remembers and has nothing at all to do with what we were talking about, all the better!

The goings on in this family were getting to me, so I stopped by the neighbor's house, figuring I'd find a nice, wholesome family like Ned Flanders'...
QUAGMIRE
Whoa! Looks like my prayers to the boob fairy have been answered! Let me get some water to spray on your top!
My name is Marge Simpson and I...
Say no more! I just want to know if your blue curtains match the...
Goodbye! Hmmph!

Bart, you're always on the go! I wish my son Chris had your kind of energy! Where are you off to now?
Thanks, Mrs. G! Today I'm going to pretend to be trapped in a well, and later this afternoon claim I'm terminally ill so I can get free stuff!
Gee, I really miss Chris!

Chris, I wish my son Bart was more like you! You're always so calm and quiet!
Thanks, new mom! That's because I'm borderline retarded!
Hmmm...I really miss Bart!


TWO WEEKS LATER...
It's great that the experiment is over, so we can get on with our lives with a whole new perspective!
That's right! This experience has taught me what's really important in life!
You mean that there's no place like home?
Or that caring for your family is the most important thing in your life?

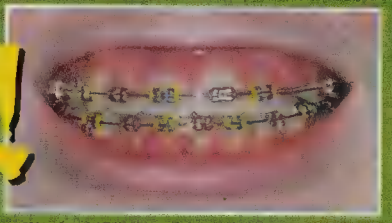
No! We learned you're all driving us crazy!
And that we don't have to put up with it any more! We can live much more fulfilling lives with each other!
If you want to find us, Marge and I will be over at The "L" Word!
Frankly, I don't think there was enough motivation for them to turn gay — not that anyone around here ever cares!
Giggety Giggety Goo! Let me get my video camera!

Planet TAD!!!!!

http://www.galaxyo'blogs.com/planettad

Search

Planet TAD!!!!!



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[13 September|**3:08pm**]

Hello, everyone! My name is Tad. I am fourteen years old and a freshman at Lakeville Junior High School. (Go Pirates!) (Our school mascot is the Pirate.) (I think because of the "LAKEville.") (Although, come to think of it, you find pirates in the ocean, not on lakes. Our mascot's, like, some kind of a lake pirate.) (The more I think about it, the more I realize that our mascot sucks.)

This is my new blog, which I am starting today. I've decided to start a blog because I have a lot of important thoughts to share with the world, and also to try and get Natalie Portman to go out with me.

I'm just kidding about that last part. Although if you are Natalie Portman, and you're reading this — like, if you Googled yourself or something — hi.

[14 September|**05:17pm**]

[mood|music]

I can't concentrate. My little sister Sophie is in her room, practicing for her oboe recital tomorrow night. She's been playing the same five-minute song, over and over, for the last hour, and it's not even a good song.

Although on second thought, I don't think there is such a thing as a good oboe song.

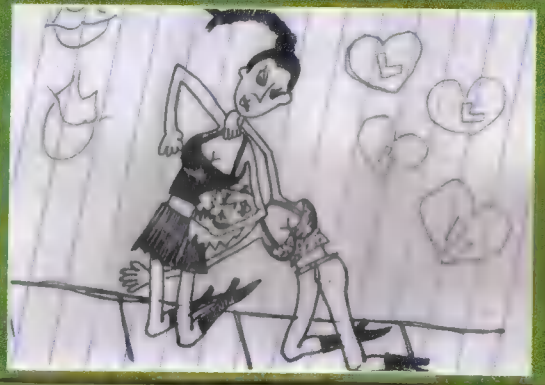
[15 September|**04:56pm**]

My friend Evan let me borrow his dad's copy of Photoshop, and I've been playing around with it on my computer. This is what Sophie would look like if she had the head of a dinosaur.

I call her Sophie Rex. I think it's an improvement.

[16 September|**07:42pm**]

Evan and I spent most of lunch today debating who would win in a wrestling match: Lara Croft or the woman with the lips from the "Resident Evil" movies. (I say Lara, he says "Resident Evil" lip-lady.) We didn't resolve it, but we did agree that it's a fight we'd really like to see. I couldn't stop thinking about it in science class.



[17 September|**11:22pm**]

[17 September|**11:22am**]

I saw a preview of King Kong on TV last night. I think if I were a giant ape trying to escape from people in airplanes trying to kill me, maybe I wouldn't climb to the top of the City's highest skyscraper. Duh!

[19 September|**03:01pm**]

mood: pissed

I can't stand Doug Spivak. He tried tripping me today. He calls me "Tard," which I guess is a play on my name. It would hurt my feelings that he's making fun of my intelligence, but Doug's the guy who read half of "Watership Down" for English class before he realized it was about rabbits.

[20 September|**03:19pm**]

mood: mixed

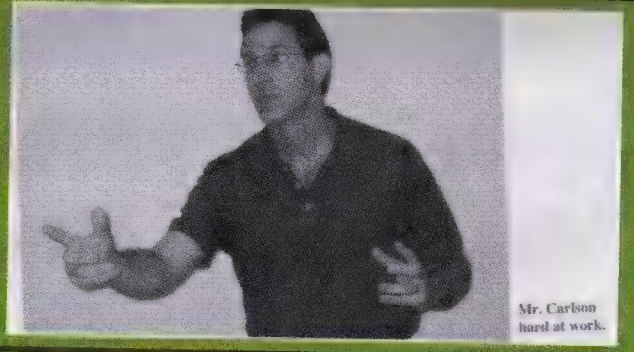
Bad news. Mom found a printout of Sophie Rex. She and Dad say I'm not allowed to use Photoshop on pictures of Sophie anymore. But she didn't say anything about pictures of THEM.

This is what my parents looked like when they were newly married, and if they had chipmunk heads.

[21 September|**05:31pm**]

In English today, Mr. Carlson had us spend the whole class diagramming sentences at the blackboard. Diagramming sentences is like a combination of the worst parts of doing math with the worst parts of doing English. It's a total waste of time, because you can either speak English or you can't, and if you can't there's no point in drawing lines all over your sentences. Doug Spivak thinks that "gooder" means the same thing as "better" and no amount of diagramming sentences will fix that.

Besides, it's a waste of time. I asked Dad at dinner whether there's any job where you have to diagram sentences, and he said, "Teaching junior high kids English."



Mr. Carlson hard at work.

[22 September|**07:47pm**]

Today Mr. Carlson had us diagram sentences again. I told him that I didn't want to have to keep doing this, because the only job where you have to diagram sentences is junior high teacher, and I planned on doing something better than that. He didn't say anything, he just got very quiet and gave us all a pop quiz on diagramming sentences. I got a D. Doug Spivak blamed me for the pop quiz, and he told me to meet him behind the gym after school so he could kick my ass. I decided not to go.

ARTIST: BRIAN DURNIAK WRITER: TIM CARVELL

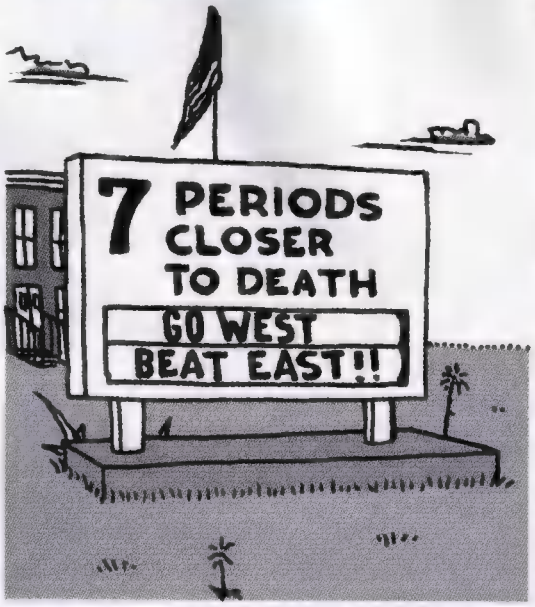
SOLDIERS OF MISFORTUNE DEPT.

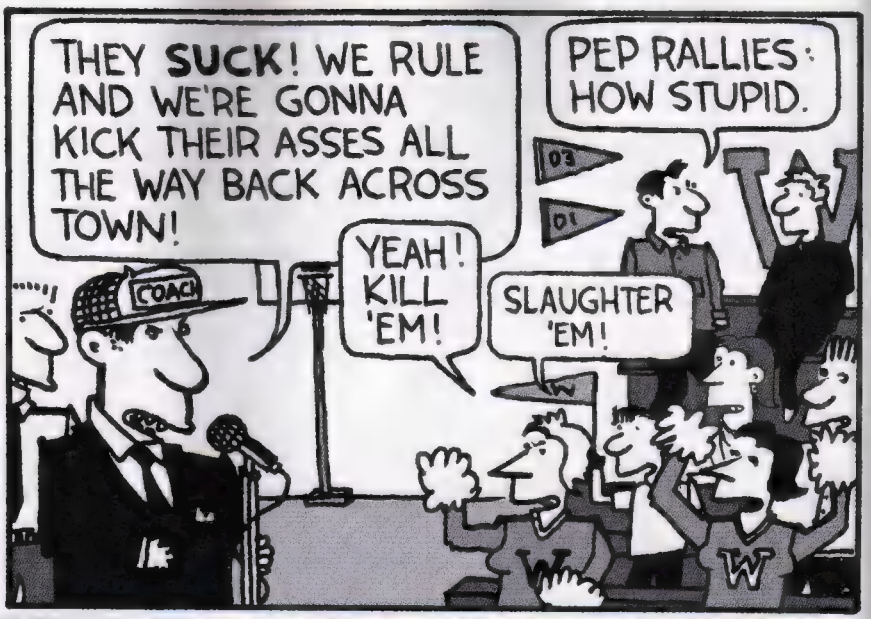
In the world of toys, nothing is more classic than little green army men. For 50 years kids have been using them to create backyard battles and clog vacuum cleaners. Melting the tiny soldiers with a magnifying glass is a rite of passage for any future serial killer. And they make great chew toys for dogs! Surprisingly, in all these years, little green army men have never been updated. There's not much variety beyond Bazooka Guy, Crawling Guy and Guy Poised with Bayonet. Isn't it time to introduce some new figures? Like these...

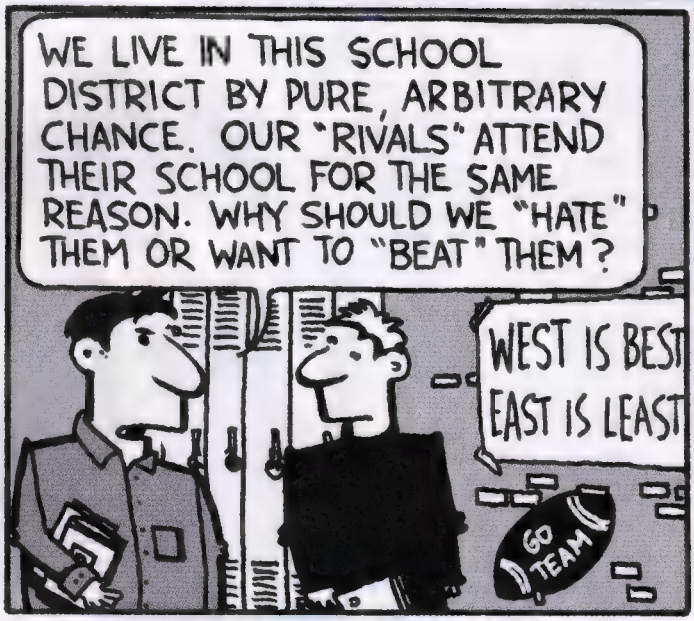
LITTLE GREEN ARMY T

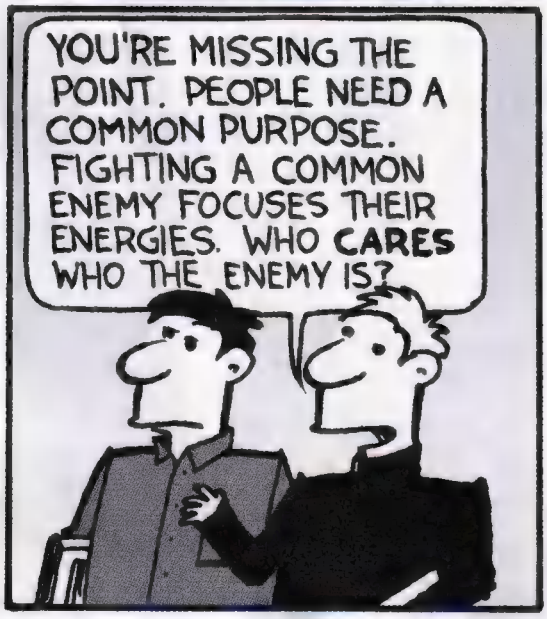
SCULPTOR: TONY CIPRIANO
PHOTOGRAPHER: IRVING SCHILL
WRITER: DARREN JOHNSON

MEN OF
ODAY'S
ARMY
FRIENDLY FIRE VICTIM
POORLY OUTFITTED WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT SCROUNGER
AWOL SOLDIER
VETERAN WITH INSUFFICIENT BENEFITS
PRESIDENT BUSH PLEASE HELP!
GENEVA-CONVENTION-IGNORING SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
KORAN FLUSHER




THEY SUCK! WE RULE AND WE'RE GONNA KICK THEIR ASSES ALL THE WAY BACK ACROSS TOWN!
PEP RALLIES: HOW STUPID.
COACH
YEAH! KILL 'EM!
SLAUGHTER 'EM!


WE LIVE IN THIS SCHOOL DISTRICT BY PURE, ARBITRARY CHANCE. OUR "RIVALS" ATTEND THEIR SCHOOL FOR THE SAME REASON. WHY SHOULD WE "HATE" THEM OR WANT TO "BEAT" THEM?
WEST IS BEST
EAST IS LEAST
GO TEAM


YOU'RE MISSING THE POINT. PEOPLE NEED A COMMON PURPOSE. FIGHTING A COMMON ENEMY FOCUSES THEIR ENERGIES. WHO CARES WHO THE ENEMY IS?

SO... HAVE YOU DECIDED WHAT YOU WANNA DO AFTER GRADUATION?
NO... HEY, LET'S PICK UP SOME BROCHURES.
ARMED FORCES
SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!
GET THE NEW VIDEO!
DEFEND AMERICA!
★GO ARMY!
★GO NAVY!

ARTIST AND WRITER: TED RALL

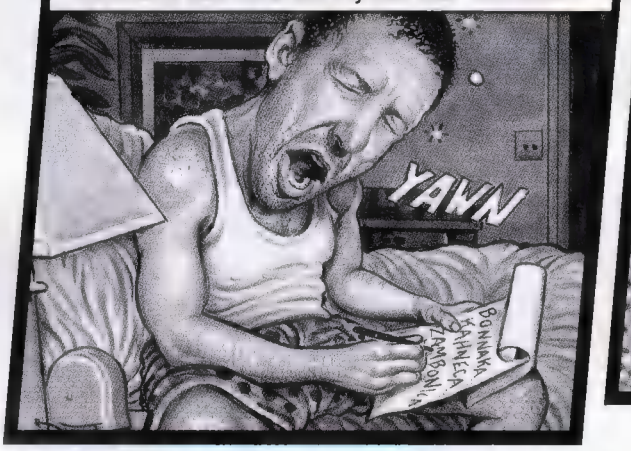
THE LONGEST YAWN DEPT.

Sure, everyone knows Adam Sandler's movies suck, but despite his inexplicable fame and obscene wealth, his life kinda sucks, too. See for yourself as we take you through...

a DAY in the LIFE

3:15 A.M.

Wake up out of a dream and desperately try to remember that word that rhymed with "Chanukah."



9:37 A.M.

Dammit! Passed up for some English a-hole in another Merchant Ivory film.

11:00 A.M.

Drop by local smelting foundry; discuss possibilities of transforming Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Award into Oscar.

1:47 P.M.

Visit Supercuts and get the 1956 Jerry Lewis special.

3:12 P.M.

Get Rob Schneider started on his latest project — cleaning all the leaves and crap out of the gutters.

ARTIST: DREW FRIEDMAN WRITER: SCOTT MAIKO

# of ADAM SANDLER

4:34 P.M.

Record new "Adam Laughs At His Own Material" audio tracks for Special Features section of deluxe edition DVD re-releases with lots of mumbling and giggling.

5:28 P.M.

After the success of *The Longest Yard*, work on treatment for remake of that *other* much-loved Burt Reynolds film, *Deliverance*; remember to ask Schneider if he can play the banjo.

7:06 P.M.

Study nuances of pool boy as he skims the scum off the pool. Control excitement...this could be the next blockbuster right here.

8:02 P.M.

Meet with writing partner to decide whether next script should feature lovable goofy everyman or annoying retard.

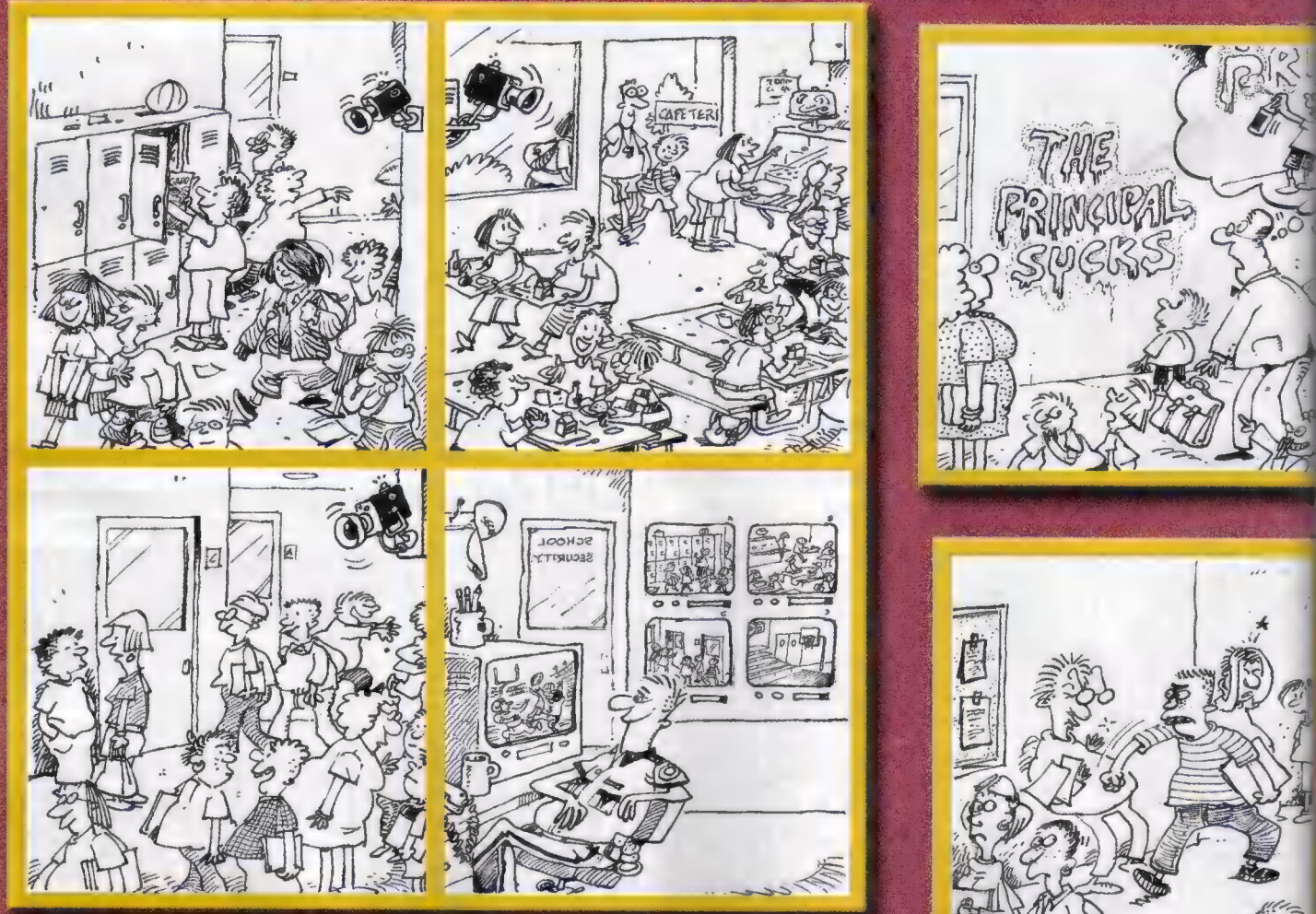
9:43 P.M.

Decide to go with "retard." Work on zany new speech impediment and other lowbrow schtick.

11:05 P.M.

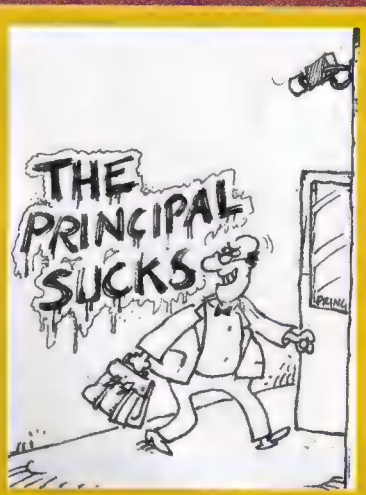
Finally! A little quiet time to work on the new terrarium.

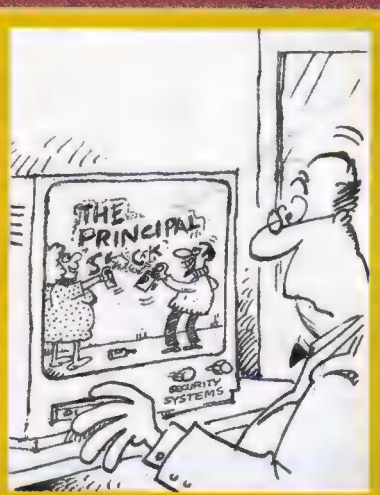
SERGIO ARAGONÉS presents A MAD LOOK AT

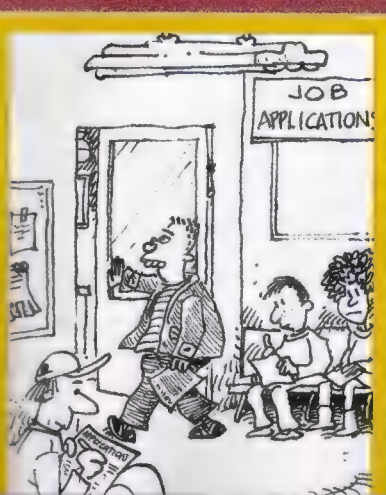


ARTIST AND WRITER: SERGIO ARAGONES

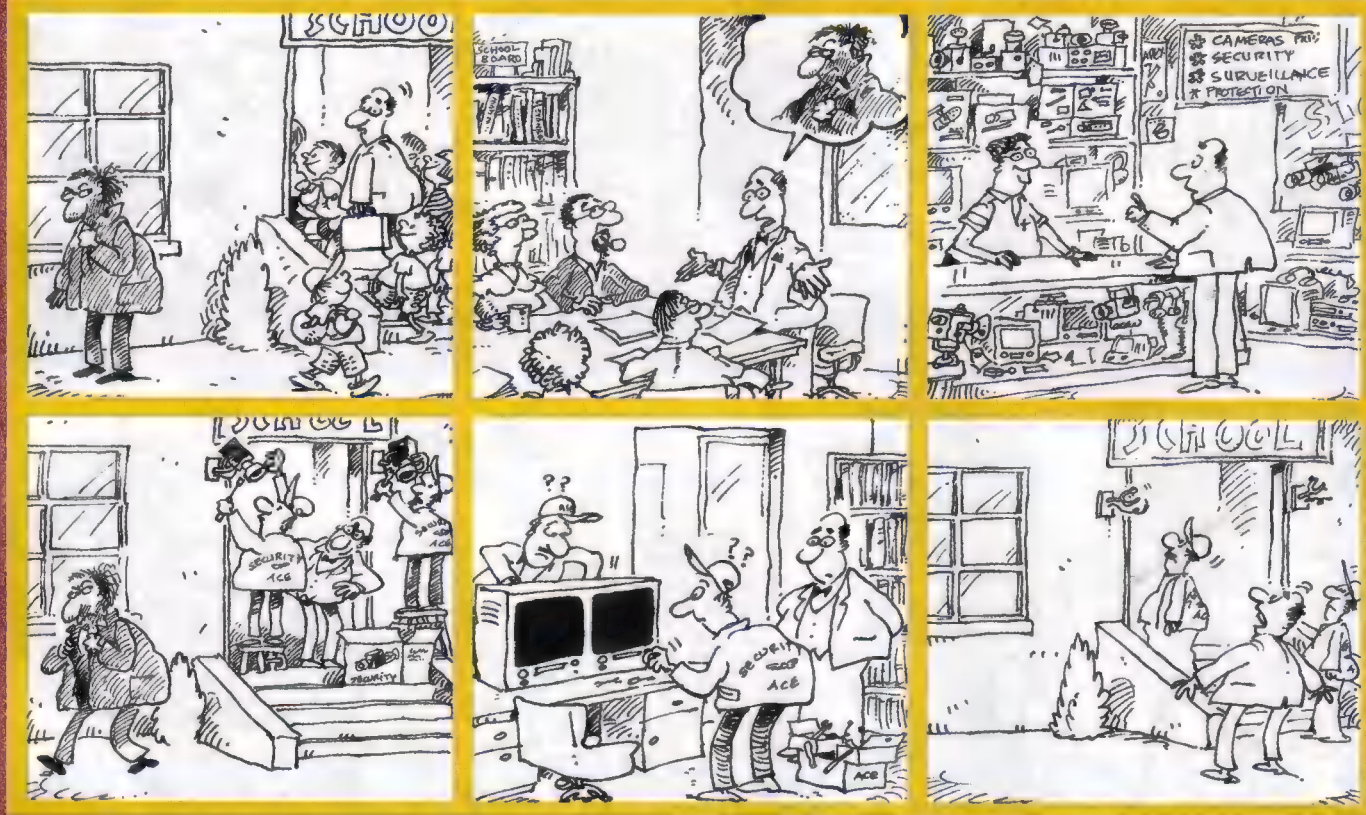
SCHOOL SECURITY







SECURITY


SCHOOL BOARD
CAMERAS
SECURITY
SURVEILLANCE
PROTECTION
SCHOOL
SECURITY ACE
ACE

PRINCIPAL

Summer's over. The nose back to the grindstone. And if you think that sounds painful, wait until...

MONROE and... The HOSPITAL STAY

I CAN'T BELIEVE KEVIN K. BURNT DOWN THE MAIN SCHOOL BUILDING.
TURNS OUT HE DIDN'T EVEN GO HERE! JUST SNEAKS INTO RANDOM SUMMER SCHOOLS AND BURNS THEM DOWN.
THAT'S HONOR ROLL MATERIAL!
YEAH. HE'S A REAL HERO. NOW WE'RE STUCK IN THESE NASTY TRAILERS.
MONROE, MOST OF US WILL END UP IN NASTY TRAILERS ANYWAY.
TOUCHÉ.
NO TRAILER PARK LIVING FOR ME. I'M GONNA BE SNUG IN A STATE-OF-THE-ART INSTITUTION WORKING ON MY APPEAL AND WATCHING TiVo.
MAN, MY THROAT IS REALLY HURTING.
PROBABLY THE ASBESTOS.
AND I'M AFRAID THERE'S NO VENTILATION IN THESE TRAILERS.
IT'S TOUGH TO BREATHE AND SWALLOW.
I APOLOGIZE. I'M AFRAID I DID A LITTLE TRAVELING TO CENTRAL AMERICA OVER THE SUMMER AND BROUGHT SOMETHING BACK IN MY INTESTINES.
MY COUSIN DID THAT ONCE BUT THE FEDS CAUGHT ON AFTER SHE BOUGHT HERSELF DIAMOND CAR RIMS.
DIFFERENT THING, DYLAN.
WOW, MONROE, YOU REALLY DO LOOK BAD.
BETTER GET TO THE NURSE.
MAYBE HE CAUGHT BINES' BOWEL GAZPACHO.
NOW CAN WE PLEASE GET BACK TO SUPPLY SIDE ECONOMICS? I'VE BEEN AWAY FROM STUDYING ALL SUMMER.
LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE KICKING YOUR ASS WHILE MONROE IS OUT SICK.
HI, NURSE HELEN. THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY THROAT.
YOU! WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS THE FIRST PATIENT OF THE YEAR? ALL RIGHT, SHUT UP AND OPEN YOUR YAP.
THERE'S YOUR PROBLEM —
YOUR TONSILS ARE ROTTED UP. A DOCTOR'S GOTTA YANK 'EM. UNTIL THEN, REST YER CLAPTRAP.
WOW. YOU'RE KIND OF GRUMPY, NURSE HELEN. BAD SUMMER?
SUMMER WAS GREAT. IT'S BEING BACK HERE WITH THE LIKES OF YOU THAT'S HELL.

ARTIST: BILL WRAY WRITER: ANTHONY BARBIERI

WHO IS THIS NURSE HELEN ANYWAY? I WANT A SECOND OPINION. MINE. OPEN UP.
Feh. GARGLE WITH SOME GOOD TEQUILA. IT'LL CLEAR UP BY MORNING.
UNBELIEVABLE.
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT, BETTER USE THE CHEAP STUFF.
MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE MY BUDDY HERB TAKE A LOOK AT HIM...
HERB?!! BUT HE'S A VETERINARIAN — AND A BAD ONE!
HELLO? PEOPLE ARE ANIMALS!
SO, HOW ARE YOU PAYING, CASH OR CHARGE?
I'M SURE WE CAN THINK OF SOMETHING.
ARE YOU TRYING TO Seduce ME OR NAUSEATE ME TO DEATH?
WHATEVER. I'M NOT PICKY.
CASH OR CHARGE, Casanova?
Uh...GIVE ME A MINUTE, WOULD YOU TAKE A POST-DATED THIRD PARTY OUT-OF-STATE CHECK?
IT'S HIGHLY IRREGULAR; LUCKILY, I'M A HEALTH CARE WORKER SO I DON'T CARE.
LATER...
THE TONSIL OPERATION WENT JUST FINE. HE'LL JUST HAVE A LITTLE TROUBLE SPEAKING FOR A FEW DAYS.
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME? WHY AM I ALL BANDAGED UP?
NEVER MIND. REST YOUR VOICE.
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU NEED?
MAYBE SOME ICE CREAM.
I THOUGHT THEY BROUGHT YOU SOME ICE CREAM.
THEY DID. I JUST PUT THE LAST OF IT IN MY PANTS. I THOUGHT IT WAS SALVE.
AS FAR AS THE DOCTOR GOES, HONEY...
OKAY, HE'S BOUND TO FIND OUT SOMEDAY. YOUR CHARTS GOT SWITCHED, THE DOCTOR SCREWED UP AND YOUR OPERATION WAS FREE. THE END.

YOU ALREADY USED THAT ONE AND WE ENDED UP WITH MONROE'S BOTCHED CIRCUMCISION.
OMIGOD! SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED!
YOU HEARD NOTHING.
YES. YOUR TONSILS ARE IN ROUGH SHAPE.
CAN YOU FIX THEM?
ABSOLUTELY, SON. WE'LL HAVE YOU UP AND OUT OF HERE IN A JIFFY.
THANK GOD. HOSPITALS GIVE ME THE WILLIES.
NOT ME. FOR SOMEONE MY AGE THEY'RE A REGULAR Singles Bar.
WANNA CHANGE ME?
SEE WHAT I MEAN?
ANY WAY TO GET THAT EXTENDED?
HEH-HEH. I'M AFRAID THERE WAS A TINY COMPLICATION. MAY I SPEAK WITH YOU TWO PRIVATELY?
AND AGAIN, I APOLOGIZE FOR THE MIX-UP. OF COURSE THERE WILL BE NO CHARGE AND WE'LL JUST FORGET THIS EVER HAPPENED. OKAY?
I COULD USE SOME CAB FARE.
BUT I THOUGHT YOU HAD A CAR... I MEAN, NO PROBLEM. THERE YOU GO.
$#
BY "SCREWED UP", HE MEANS THEY ACCIDENTALLY GAVE YOU A VASECTOMY.
WE DIDN'T REALLY WANT GRANDKIDS ANYWAY.
AND THIS WAY YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT GETTING SOME GIRL IN TROUBLE.
YEAH. AS IF.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, MONTY. VASECTOMIES ARE REVERSIBLE. I'VE HAD MINE SWITCHED BACK AND FORTH A COUPLE OF TIMES.
YEAH, IT'S LIKE CELL PHONE PLANS. RIGHT NOW YOU'RE T-Mobile, NEXT YEAR, YOU COULD GO Sprint.
GET WELL SOON!
BUT NOT TOO SOON!
BW+TB

MAD's EXCLUSIVE BACKSTAGE

I'm tired of people saying we stole everything from The Simpsons! We didn't steal anything from them!
Although we do have an animated family with an idiot father, a beleaguered mother, a town full of crazy characters and lots of random pop culture references!
Guess what! The boss approved my script where Peter takes the family to a Nazi death camp over Lois' objections and they meet the ghost of Dana Plato from Diff'rent Strokes, who teaches Meg how to become a bulimic before she joins the KKK!
Well, there's one thing we DEFINITELY didn't steal from them!
What's that?
Good writers!
SCRIPT
RECORDING
Hey, you're Matt Stone and Trey Parker, the creators of South Park! Let me guess, you're here to claim we ripped you off, too!
No, we think your show breaks new ground for primetime cartoons!
With off-color jokes that no one's ever seen on TV before?
Nah, we covered that when we created South Park!
Risky subject areas that used to be taboo?
Nope, we beat you on that, too! We just wanted to thank you for coming up with stories so lame and random, ours look like friggin' Shakespeare!
D'OH!
Peter, the solution to every problem is a hot bath and an ice cold martini!
Man, they steal from everyone! Where'd they ever get the idea to portray the pet dog as 100 IQ points smarter than his owner? From Peanuts?
From the White House!
Here's your lunch order!
Thanks! By the way, you look kinda familiar!
I should! I'm the idiot FOX executive who cancelled the show before we realized it had a huge following on DVD! You need extra napkins?
MAX KORN DELI

ARTIST: TOM RICHMOND

WRITER: DAVID RICHARDS

TOUR OF THE FAMILY GUY
Wow! Are those all the lines I have to record today for Chris?
Um, no, Seth. These are for you to stand on so you can reach the microphone!
It's amazing how well Family Guy reruns have done on Cartoon Network's Adult Swim!
Puh-leeze! Their other hits are about a talking milkshake and a superhero attorney! The Cartoon Network audience is so stoned, you could run a cartoon about animated diapers and get a 5 share! Hmmmm... "Talking Super Diaper Team"! Actually, that's not a bad idea...
HAVE YOU OFFENDED ANYONE TODAY?
STEWIE
PETER
BRIAN
SLAG MICE
MEG
MAYOR
So, Mr. Murdoch, as the president of News Corp, you have pushed a right-wing agenda supporting conservative politicians!
That's because I believe it's important to promote strong moral values for the children!
Yet your FOX network airs tasteless shows like Family Guy!
And that's because I believe it's even MORE important to make assloads of money for myself!
I NEED TO SPEAK TO MY LAWYER!
So Family Guy is teamed up with American Dad, King of the Hill and The Simpsons as part of FOX's Sunday Night "Animation Domination"!
More like, "Animation ABOMINATION"!
That pun is terrible! Do you work for the show?
No, I write "The Hit List" for Entertainment Weekly!
I thought that pun was hilarious!
Let me guess: you work for Entertainment Weekly, too!
No, I write the department headings for MAD!
FOX SUNDAY

W.W.B.D.
WHAT WOULD BART DO?
Can we make fun of the homeless?
How about the deaf?
Jews?
Absolutely not!
No.
Can't do it.
I guess there are certain jokes we have to reject because they're too offensive!
No, there are certain jokes we have to reject because we've already done them to death!
WILL ACT FOR FOOD
Ahhhh! Lois, you vile woman, I shall attempt to murder you every chance I get!
You know what my favorite part about writing for Stewie is?
The over-the-top dialogue? Thinking up hilarious schemes for him? Coming up with a new way for him to try to kill Lois?
Knowing that because the show's creator, Seth MacFarlane, does his voice, whatever I write won't get cut!
FAMILY GUY
LICENSING
CEASE AND DESIST
I can't come up with an ending for this scene!
Just have one of the characters say, "Do you remember the time...?" and then flash to a random non sequitur flashback!
Do you think that will work?
I hope so! We do i six time an episode
I just got socked in the groin. Yeowch! Yeowch! Yeeeeeeeowch! Yeowch! Yeeeeeeeowch! Yeowch!
I'm not sure this is working!
Then we'd better do what we always do!
Cut the scene?
No, stretch it out for another minute until the joke becomes that it's going on for way too long!
FOX
Who is that in the dumpster?
That's a writer from Seth MacFarlane's other show, American Dad!
Why is he going through our rejected scripts?
Where do you think they get their story ideas from? It's the comedy food chain — we might rip off The Simpsons, but they're so lame, they rip off US!

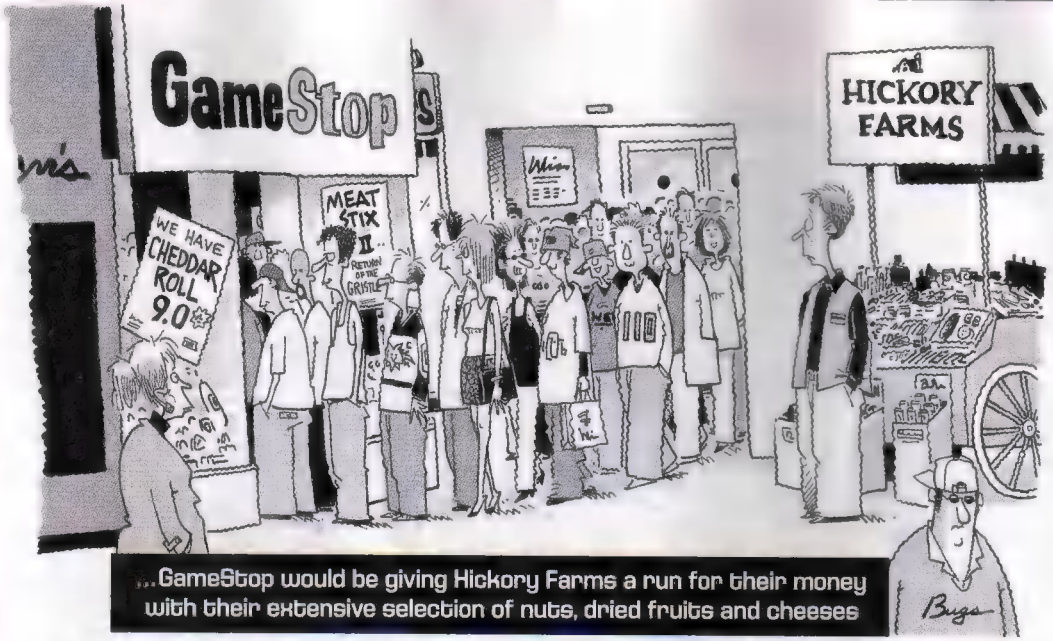
In the last 20+ years video games have become a way of life and a cultural obsession. It's difficult to imagine a world where no one had ever saved Mario's princess, won the finals in NASCAR, or virtually killed a hooker in San Andreas for some extra pocket change. With this in mind, maybe it's time to put down the controller, give your blistered thumbs a rest, and take a look at what our lives would be like in...

JOHN CALDWELL'S IF THERE WERE NO SUCH THINGS AS VIDEO GAMES...

...The term "great gaming effects" would begin and end with guys who are able to cut the cards with one hand

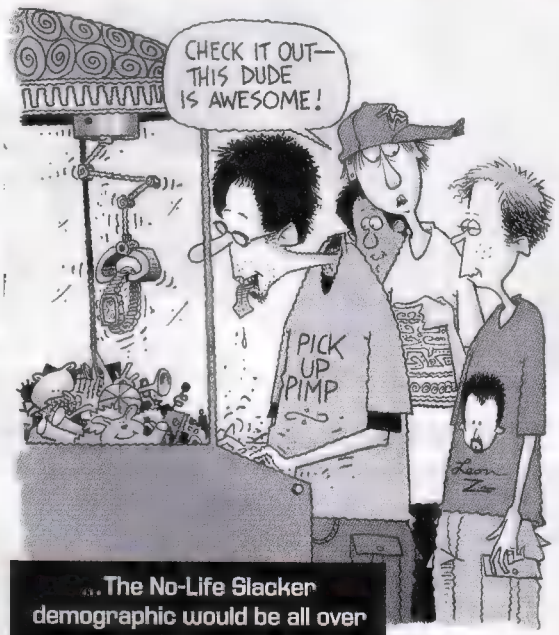
...Instances of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome in males 14 to 21 would be extremely rare and the cause narrowed down to one very embarrassing diversio

...The big buzz around school would be about the mysterious delays surrounding the release of Whiffle Ball 2006

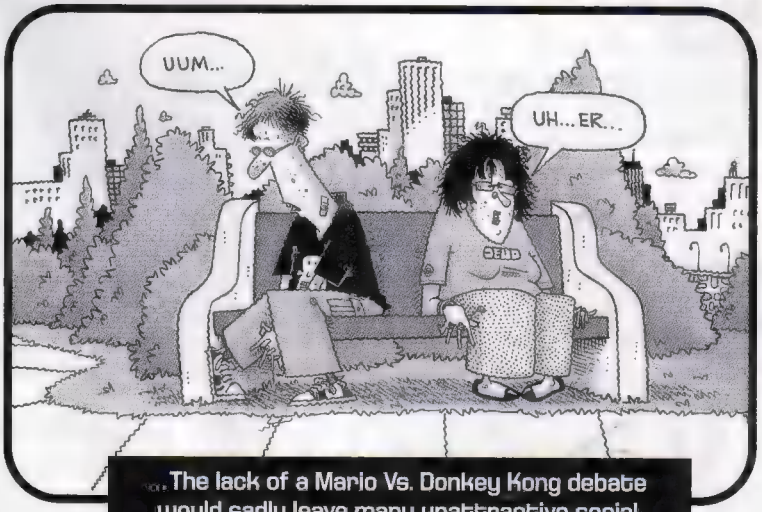


...GameStop would be giving Hickory Farms a run for their money with their extensive selection of nuts, dried fruits and cheeses

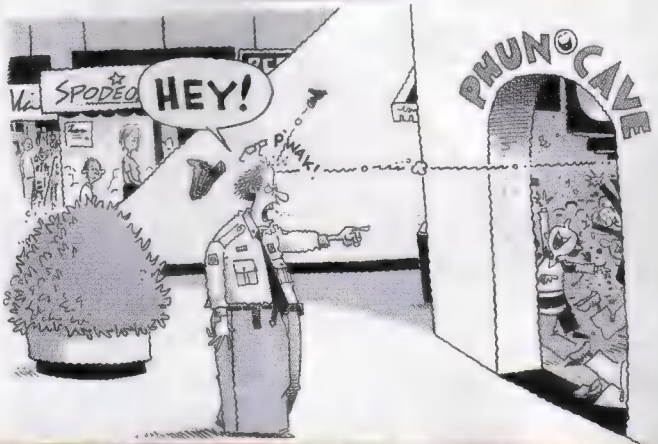
...Instead of great advances in micro technology like PSP, really tiny Monopoly



...The No-Life Slacker demographic would be all over supermarket crane games



...The lack of a Mario Vs. Donkey Kong debate would sadly leave many unattractive social outcasts with nothing to base a relationship on



...Mall arcades would be full of unruly teenage chess players

ARTIST AND WRITER: JOHN CALDWELL

SHOW-FLOPPERS DEPT.

In the 500-channel universe there's more crap on TV than ever before, but there are 9 shows in particular that we think are especially worthy of being mocked! Here's...

MAD's FALL TV PREVIEW 2005

American Idol

FOX – STARTS JANUARY 2006 – TUESDAY, 8:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 9:30 P.M.

FOX begins yet another nationwide search for America's next singing *Idol*, to join the ranks of past Idol winners such as Kelly Clarkson and...the...the guy...with the...thing...and the, uh...the girl. You know, the girl who...sang...that song. And the other guy who was singing...And the other...or others?...who won. The new season begins with Simon, Randy and Paula once again searching the country for 16 mediocre contestants to bring to Hollywood, and then slowly, painfully and methodically, crush their dreams of success through a combination of public humiliation and embarrassing technical voting glitches, until through sheer dumb luck just one tuneless doofus remains — the newest American Idol!

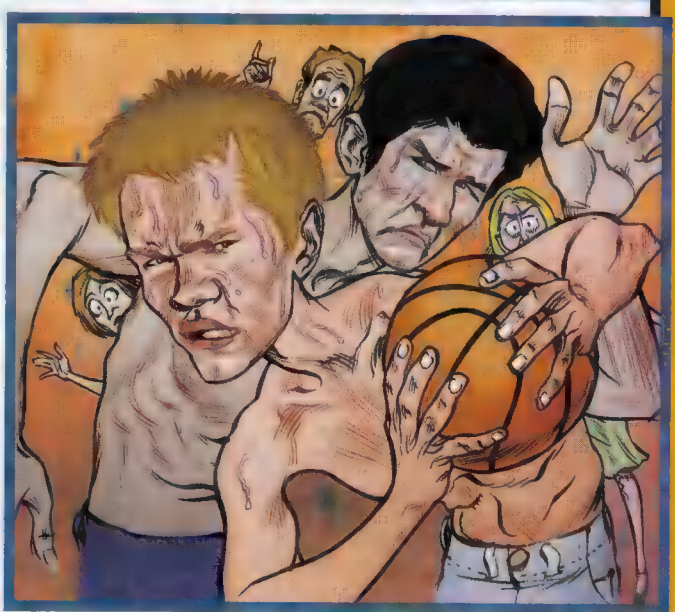
WATCH FOR: A new twist in the judging segments, as Paula Abdul will be critiquing male contestants' performance on stage as well as in bed

DID YOU KNOW? That the singing careers of the runners-up have begun and ended in the same malls where they auditioned for the show — all within a matter of a few short months. But what a ride!

ARTIST: HERMANN MEJIA WRITER: SCOTT MAIKO

One Tree Hill

WB – TUESDAY, 9:00 P.M.



Lucas and Nathan: half-brothers by birth, rivals by obvious teen drama scripting. A shared love of hoops, shirtless close-ups, and insipid dialogue doesn't distract them from their drive to compete — be it for control of the basketball court, for the love of the same girl, or for the cover of *Teen People*. In the ever-changing world of these two high school students there is but one constant: whatever trivial, insignificant crap life throws their way each week, that pompous WB announcer is going to make it sound like the fate of the world rests in their hands.

WATCH FOR: All the adult actors on this show trying to make the most of their severely limited screen time and negligible dialogue in a show built to appeal to the pre-teen set

DID YOU KNOW? *One Tree Hill* is shot in the same North Carolina city as was *Dawson's Creek*, presumably with a box of unused scripts and an actor (Chad Michael Murray) that the previous teen-angst drama left behind.

Ghost Whisperer

CBS – FRIDAY, 8:00 P.M.

Jennifer Love Hewitt makes a triumphant post-*Garfield: the Movie* return to series television to play Melinda Gordon. She's a young newlywed with an amazing ability that, unfortunately for her new husband, is not tying maraschino cherry stems into knots with her tongue, and (even more unfortunately for her new husband) is communicating with the restless souls of the dead. In a desperate effort to get the ghoul-of-the-week off her back, Melinda helps others by delivering closure to those the spirits have left behind, with the notable exception of rabid *Joan of Arcadia* fans who are still pissed-off over that vaguely similar series' recent cancellation.

WATCH FOR: ABC and FOX to frantically dig up a couple more real-life women paranormal "experts" to base other series on and jump on the bandwagon started last season with Patricia Arquette on *Medium*, in the most annoying programming trend since the primetime game show craze of the late 1990s.

BOTTOM LINE: CBS is sure to pull in the all-important over-80 demographic who fondly remember *Touched By An Angel*. But how many will make it through the end of the season?

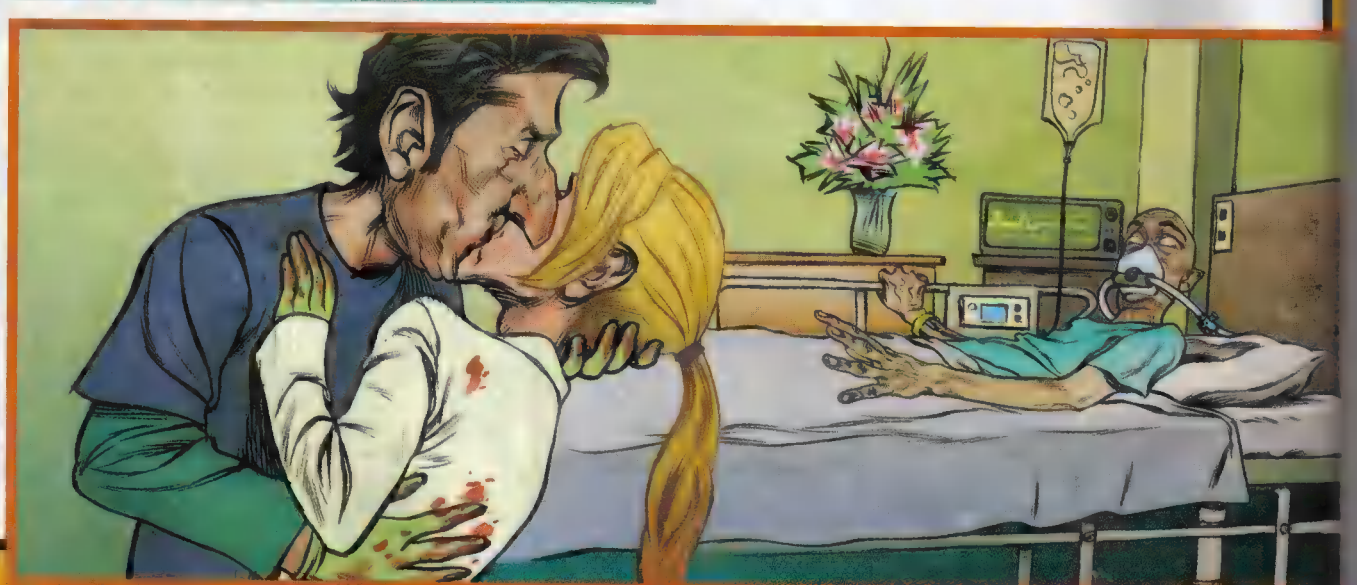
Grey's Anatomy

ABC - SUNDAY, 10:00 P.M.

Back for a second season, Meredith Grey (so-named so the series has what the producers thought was a clever title) and her fellow surgeons-in-training each contend with a highly competitive, hectic work environment where the time spent enjoying a quickie in the supply closet can mean the difference between life and death for some poor bastard on the operating table with a ruptured aorta. Guiding these young would-be doctors is a somehow equally diverse team of four established surgeons who pop up in the serious scenes when the dramatic music starts.

WATCH FOR: A sure-fire spin-off, *Darwynn's Origin of Species*, featuring Darwynn Caruthers, a young, bright-eyed zoology student who's introduced mid-season when she has emergency surgery to relieve an impacted sweat gland she got while classifying dung beetle larvae in Borneo.

DID YOU KNOW? Careful research went into studying the overwhelming, constantly on-the-go schedules of overworked real-life first-year medical interns...and then was completely dismissed to fit more sex into the show.



Survivor: Guatemala

CBS – THURSDAY, 8:00 P.M.

A fat guy. A black woman with serious attitude. A bubbly blonde. A lecherous hunk. A resourceful old woman who just might surprise you. These are among the twenty strangers from across the country who for some inexplicable reason are still planning to watch the new season of *Survivor*. The producers are promising "incredible new challenges," including a new final elimination round in which the last two Survivors must head north out of Guatemala, through Mexico, and try to enter the United States illegally through a section of border patrolled by the Minute Men.

WATCH FOR: Approximately sixteen more suspicious melanoma-like spots on perma-tanned Jeff Probst's increasingly haggard face.

DID YOU KNOW? The Ancient Mayan Ruins set used for the tribal council scenes is a block-by-block recreation of actual ancient Mayan ruins that were destroyed to make room for the Ancient Mayan Ruins set.

Commander-In-Chief

ABC – TUESDAY, 9:00 P.M.

Geena Davis stars as former vice-president Mackenzie Allen, who ascends to the position thanks to a dying chief executive as well as dying *West Wing* ratings. Despite her predecessor's request for her to step down and let someone "more appropriate" take over, Allen takes the oath of office and thus defies both the president and any sense of realism that presumes the GOP would ever endorse a Republican presidential candidate with an independent woman running mate.

WATCH FOR: Stunt casting to get audiences hooked. In episode 3, titled "Chick Flick," Susan Sarandon appears as a liberal activist guest at the White House's weekly movie night. After a few drinks and some inappropriate pawing by Senator Edward Kennedy (playing himself), the president and she drive the presidential motorcade off a cliff.

BOTTOM LINE: A wonderful opportunity for bloated, drug-addled gasbag Rush Limbaugh and alleged phone-diddler/vibrator-owner Bill O'Reilly to begin honing their material about female politicians should Hillary run in 2008.

How I Met Your Mother

CBS – MONDAY, 8:30 P.M.

Pornography producers all over the San Fernando Valley are licking their chops at an obvious take on the show's title, starring perennial C-lister Neil Patrick "Doogie Howser" Harris and the flute chick from *American Pie*. Lending support are an obscure cast of actors you've never heard of, all of whom have probably run out and bought soon-to-be-repo'ed Hummers in the mistaken belief that somehow, this is the show that will fill the gaping comedy hole left by *Everybody Loves Raymond*.

WATCH FOR: Two back-to-back episodes of *Two and a Half Men* starting at 8:30 on Mondays, once this thing is given the axe.

BOTTOM LINE: The new *Friends* is here! *Friends: The Complete Season 9* DVD you ordered from Netflix! It just came in the mail, so you can turn off this crap and watch that crap instead.

Everybody Hates Chris

UPN – THURSDAY, 8:00 P.M.

Narrated by Chris Rock, *Everybody Hates Chris* is inspired by the comedian's childhood experiences that evidently occurred to an omnipresent funk soundtrack. Set in 1982, the show tells the unriveting tale of a teenager bused to a predominantly white school where he finds himself as out of place as a sitcom on UPN without a raucous laughtrack.

WATCH FOR: Other series based on this winning format, such as the long-overdue *Everybody Hates Carrot Top*.

BOTTOM LINE: *The Wonder Years + Good Times = Malcolm in the Ghetto.*

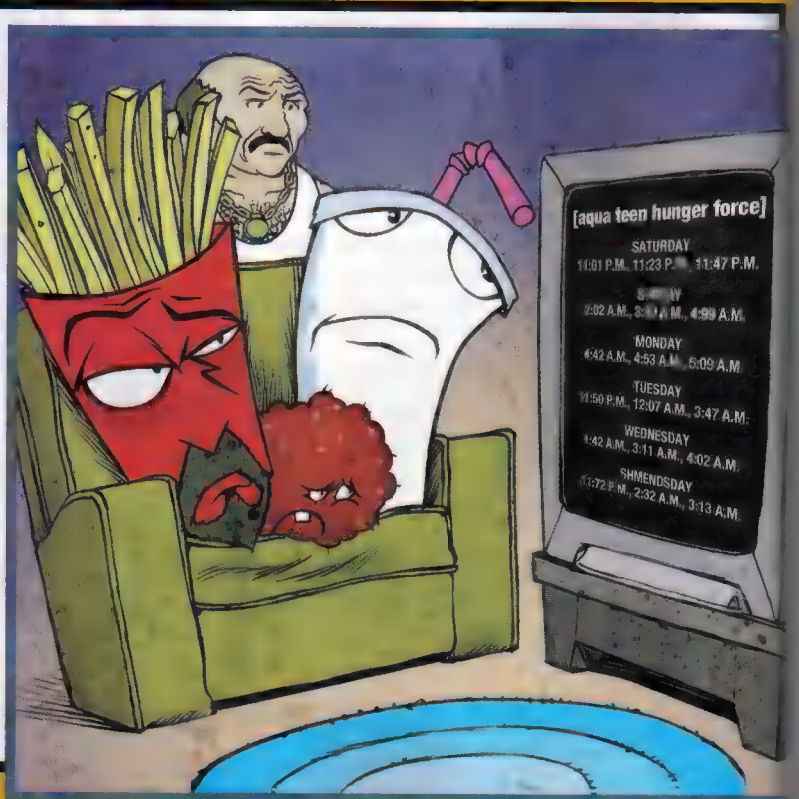
Aqua Teen Hunger Force

CARTOON NETWORK – MONDAY–SUNDAY, ???

Frylock, Master Shake, and Meatwad are back again and they're number 1 in the hood, G! — the hood, of course, being Cartoon Network's spotty, inconsistent, when-is-it-on? Adult Swim line-up. Another truncated season of plotless geek-hipster randomness starring three non-crime-fighting fast food heroes who are less interested in saving the day than bickering, making intentionally embarrassing hip-hop references and vaguely advancing incoherent storylines to the eleven-minute mark until they've got the absolute bare minimum of episodes needed to slap together another overpriced DVD.

WATCH FOR: Friends of the creators with no background in voiceover work nor any acting ability whatsoever bringing your favorite guest characters to life!

DID YOU KNOW? It takes less time to write, record the soundtrack, and haphazardly animate each episode than it does watch it. Or at least it seems that way.



ARTIST AND WRITER: PETER KUPER

A NEW MONTHLY READER SERVICE SECTION

GO FETCH!

THE LATEST STUFF YOU MAY (OR MAY NOT) WANT TO CHASE DOWN!

ARTIST: TOM NICK COCITOS

BOOK

THE COMPLETE CALVIN AND HOBBES

BILL WATTERSON

Andrews McMeel Publishing • $150.00 • 3 Volume Set • October

The Hype: This box set includes all the *Calvin and Hobbes* strips that ever appeared in syndication (3,160 to be exact) along with new art and an original introduction by the author.

The Snipe: *Call us obsessive, but this supposedly "exhaustive" collection omits our favorite* C&H *image: the bootleg drawing of Calvin taking a whiz. To see that, you'll still have to look on the back window of any pickup truck.*

MUSIC

THE MOUSE AND THE MASK

DANGERDOOM

Epitaph Records • October 11

The Hype: Danger Mouse (the man behind the Jay-Z/Beatles mash-up, *The Grey Album*) and MF Doom (the man behind...well, a metallic mask) team up for the first time on this *Adult Swim*-inspired album which features character voices and skits from Adult Swim shows like *Aqua Teen Hunger Force*, *Sealab 2021* and *Harvey Birdman, Attorney at Law.*

The Snipe: *A rap song about* Aqua Teen, *eh? That sounds fine, but what rhymes with "Meatwad"? Heat pod? Feet god? Good luck, fellas!*

GAME

25 TO LIFE

PS2, Xbox, PC • Eidos Interactive • October

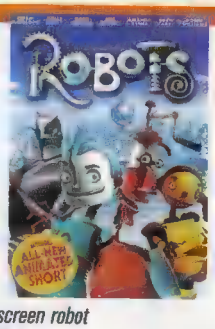
The Hype: Witness the gritty lifestyles of police task forces or strive to survive as a gangster fighting your way out of the streets. Busting out of prison, or infiltrating the inner sanctum of the drug lord's mansion, your knowledge of the streets will be put to the test because "*25 to Life* IS the streets!"

The Snipe: *Hear that, suburban kids? "*25 to Life *IS the streets!" And nothing says "the streets" like playing a $40 game on a $200 system, until your mom calls down to the basement and tells you that the pizza is here.*

DVD

ROBOTS

FOX Home Entertainment • September 20



The Hype: Ewan McGregor lends his voice to this animated feature about Rodney Copperbottom, a young robot inventor who dreams of making the world a better place. Featuring Greg Kinnear as the villainous Ratchet and Robin Williams as motormouthed Fender.

The Snipe: *Personally, our favorite big-screen robot is McGregor's* Star Wars *co-star Hayden Christensen.*

GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH!

Coming Soon To Corrupt The Minds Of Even Younger Readers!

MAD KIDS

Featuring SPY VS SPY JR.!

On Sale November 15 wherever it is sold!

GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH!

GAME

NBA LIVE 06

PS2, Xbox, PC, Gamecube • Electronic Arts • October

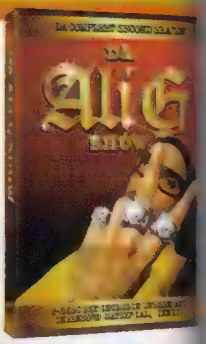
The Hype: In *NBA Live 06* star players perform like their real-life NBA counterparts.

The Snipe: *Really? Do they punch fans in the face or try to strangle their coach to death?*

DVD

DA ALI G SHOW: DA COMPLEET SECOND SEAZON

Warner Home Video • September 13



The Hype: British comedian Sacha Baron Cohen slips back into the skins of his devilish alter egos, Ali G, Borat and Bruno, to riff at the expense of American culture. As mock talk show host Ali G, he interviews such heavyweights as Sam Donaldson, Pat Buchanan and Christie Whitman.

The Snipe: *Ali G's talk show isn't real, yet he still gets better guests than Jimmy Kimmel.*

BOOK

THE ART OF WALLACE AND GROMIT: THE CURSE OF THE WERE-RABBIT

ANDY LANE AND PAUL SIMPSON

Titan Books • $19.95 • 144 pages • September

The Hype: The official guide to Wallace & Gromit's first feature length film. Discover the secrets of the movie in this full-color, illustrated companion.

The Snipe: *One little-known secret is that W&G creator, Nick Park, painstakingly modeled Wallace's stereotypically bad British teeth after those of Prince Charles and his wife, Camilla Parker Bowles.*

GAME

JAWS UNLEASHED

PS2, Xbox, PC • Majesco • October

The Hype: *JAWS Unleashed* allows the player to experience the *JAWS* universe from a unique perspective — that of the Great White Shark.

The Snipe: *How about just a game where Jaws chomps on whoever greenlit all those moronic sequels?*

DVD

AMERICAN PIE: 3 MOVIE PIE PACK

Universal Studios Home Entertainment • September 27

The Hype: This gift set includes all three *American Pie* movies, following the sexually frustrated antics of Jim, Finch, Stifler and company. Jim's dad is also on hand to give advice that no one wants to hear.

The Snipe: *Here's some advice that no one at Universal Studios wants to hear: Don't make a fourth* American Pie *— you've run this franchise into the ground!*

MUSIC

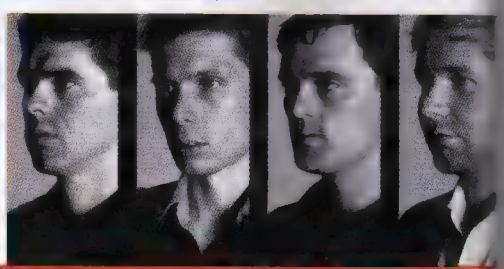
YOU COULD HAVE IT SO MUCH BETTER... WITH FRANZ FERDINAND

FRANZ FERDINAND

Domino Records • October 4

The Hype: The Scottish band releases its follow-up to their platinum-selling debut album.

The Snipe: *As far as the title goes — they had us right up to the "with Franz Ferdinand" part.*



GAME

CALL OF DUTY 2

PC, Xbox 360 • Activision • Fall

The Hype: As part of a squad overcoming insurmountable odds, players enlist in multiple campaigns throughout France, North Africa and the Russian Eastern Front.

The Snipe: *You want insurmountable odds? Let's see a game about an armed forces recruiter trying to get* anybody *to enlist in today's army. Now* those *are insurmountable odds.*

BOOK

THE ROUGH GUIDE TO COMEDY MOVIES

BOB MCCABE

Rough Guides • $14.99 • 320 pages • October

The Hype: A complete lowdown on funny films from the slapstick silents of yesterday to the dark indies of today.

The Snipe: *Try not to waste too much time trying to figure out why Rob Schneider movies are included in a book about comedies.*

GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH!

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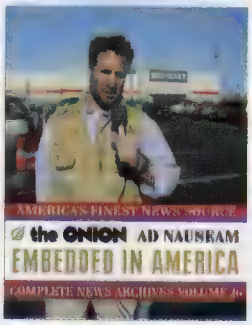
BOOK

THE ONION AD NAUSEAM EMBEDDED IN AMERICA

Three Rivers Press • $18.95 • 320 pages • October

The Hype: This new volume contains every last word published in the newspaper version of *The Onion* from October 2003-November 2004. Headlines include: "Organizers Fear Terrorist Attacks on Upcoming Al-Qaeda Convention" and "Great-Grandmother Actually Not That Great."



The Snipe: The Onion *is still the funniest source for made-up news stories, despite competition from* The New York Times *and CBS News.*

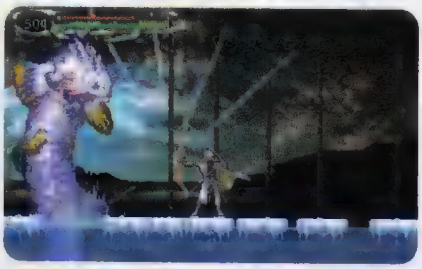
GAME

CASTLEVANIA: DAWN OF SORROW

Nintendo DS • Konami Digital Entertainment – America • October

The Hype: Taking place a year after *Castlevania: Aria of Sorrow* ended, the game's protagonist — Soma Cruz — finds himself at the center of a mysterious cult's plan to resurrect their evil lord and master, Dracula. Features include exchanging or trading acquired souls with other players via the DS wireless connection.

The Snipe: *If you can acquire a soul by playing this game, maybe someone should give a copy to Donald Rumsfeld.*



DVD

DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES: THE COMPLETE FIRST SEASON

Buena Vista Home Entertainment • September 20

The Hype: Why would perfect wife and mother Mary Alice Young suddenly decide to commit suicide? While her friends Susan, Bree, Lynette and Gabrielle try to find out, their own lives and loves get increasingly complicated.

The Snipe: *Why would a suburban housewife commit suicide? Freakin' Oprah had to pick* The Bell Jar *for her book club.*

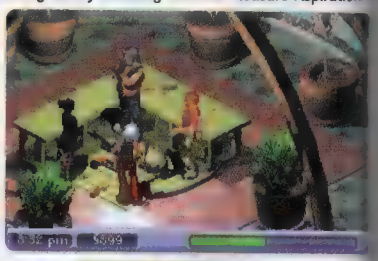
GAME

THE SIMS 2 NIGHTLIFE

PC • Electronic Arts • September

The Hype: In *The Sims 2*, players could choose one of five life aspirations that determine their wants and fears — Popularity, Romance, Knowledge, Fortune, or Family. With *The Sims 2 Nightlife* players focus on having fun by choosing the new Pleasure Aspiration.

The Snipe: *"Pleasure Aspiration"? Isn't that how INXS's lead singer accidentally killed himself?*



MUSIC

DISTORTION REV RUN

Russell Simmons Music Group/ Island Def Jam Records • September 13

The Hype: The "Run" half of "Run-DMC" releases his first solo album. After scaling back on his work following the death of Jam Master Jay, Run is suddenly all over the place. His single "Mind on the Road" is featured in *Madden 2006* and he and his family are the focus of a new MTV reality show, *Run's House.*

The Snipe: *Looking at the album cover, it's not clear whether Rev Run is reveling in the destruction of the city behind him or simply fleeing. In either case, we expect more from a man of the cloth.*

DVD

CARTOON NETWORK VOL. 2: CHRISTMAS ROCKS

Warner Home Video • October 4

The Hype: Another collection of holiday episodes from the Cartoon Network. Includes *Johnny Bravo: 'Twas the Night, Dexter vs. Santa's Claws* and *Powerpuff Girls: Mime for a Change.*

The Snipe: *We're not sure why, but this stuff makes us long for the days of* Mr. Magoo's Christmas Carol.

THE MUST-HAVE!

BRUTE BREAKER HAMMER — MODEL 11304 BOSCH

The Hype: 1,400 loaded BPM-shock mounted handles absorb vibration to reduce operator fatigue. Two-way tool retainer accepts 1-1/8" hex, air tool steel with retaining collar or Bosch internal locking combo steel. Operates using 115/120V AC/DC, 15A outlet or 2,500 watt generator — does not need an air compressor!

The Snipe: *This is why Osama hates us!*

GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH!

BORE

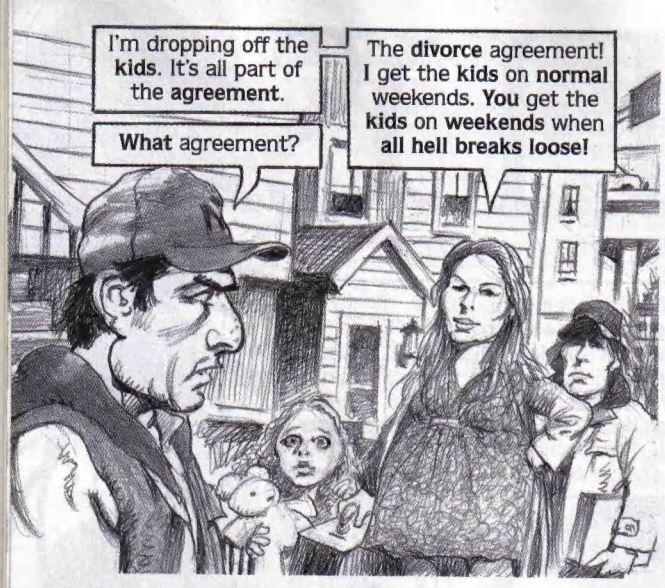
Hello there, moviegoers. Recognize my voice? You should, I've done enough voiceovers in my Hollywood career to challenge James Earl Jones for top spot in the Guinness Book of World Records! From The Shawshank Redemption to Million Dollar Baby to March of the Penguins. And now this drek. Whew! Am I glad only my voice and not my face appears! The producers save money, I save my acting reputation! A win-win situation! Why am I boring you with this idle chatter? Believe me, you're gonna wish I kept talking after you sit through...
Kids, some bad news: the world is being attacked by monstrous aliens who are vaporizing us, turning us to dust and sucking our blood! Now, the good news: I wouldn't sweat your homework!
Are these illegal aliens from south of the border?
Uh. Sort of. They're coming from under the streets!
Do they have weapons of mass destruction?
They ARE weapons of mass destruction! We have to stay calm!
You stay calm, grinning idiot face! I'm going to let loose with the first of my 1,200 screams! YEEEEEK! YAAAAAH!
I hate you! The aliens suck! I'm running away and enlisting!
Rubbie has quite an emotional range.
Yeah. In this film he runs the gamut from surly to balky to sullen to moody!
@#$%^&! Nothing works! There's no electricity. The generators are dead. All the clocks have stopped!
...and I have no cell phone service!
Damn aliens!
Don't blame them! I'm with Verizon! This happens all the time!
What do you mean?
This film is terrifying and scary! It's tough on little Dakota Fanning!
She started out the film at age 11. I hear she ended the shoot looking like a 56-year-old woman!

OF THE WORLDS

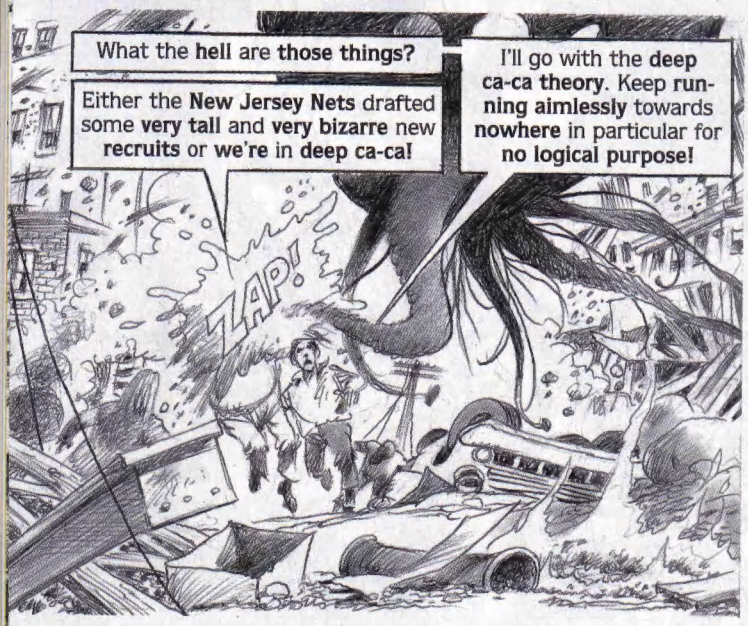
What the hell is going on?
Aliens are attacking New Jersey!
Why are they here? What do they want?
In 118 minutes of perplexing dialogue, no one ever explains that! But keep running aimlessly!
But where to?
Not sure. I think Scranton is that way!
This "attacking Tripods" scene has the look and feel of the "imperial walker" scene in Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back!
Really? I don't think so.
Check again. I just heard Luke Skywalker call for reinforcements!
SUSAN
DREAMWORKS
If you think the aliens are creepy, spend some time with me, Harlan Wackabee! I have weapons, I have survival food, and for emergencies, I have a two-year supply of sassafrass and moonbeams!
Great! The aliens have zapped all the normal people and have spared the raving lunatics!
I've never seen Spielberg looking this worried!
Nonsense. He's a pro! These are just CGI effects! He's seen all this before in Private Ryan!
Yes, he's watched bridges and sidewalks collapse, but he never expected to see the screenplay crumble around him! This is Close Encounters of the Dull Kind!

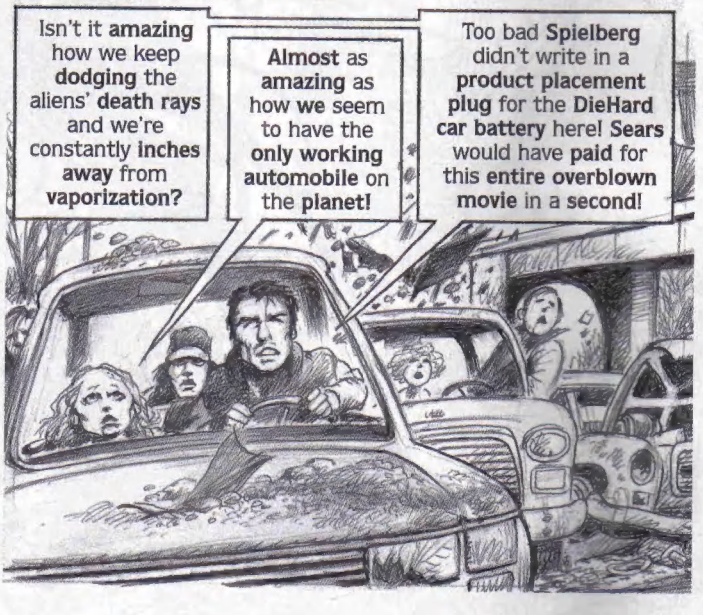
ARTIST: MORT DRUCKER WRITER: ARNIE KOGEN

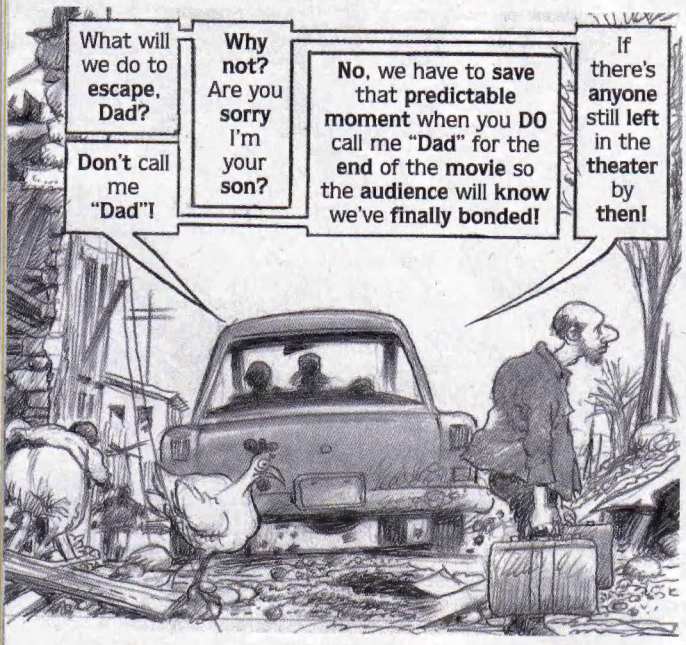
MORT DRUCKER

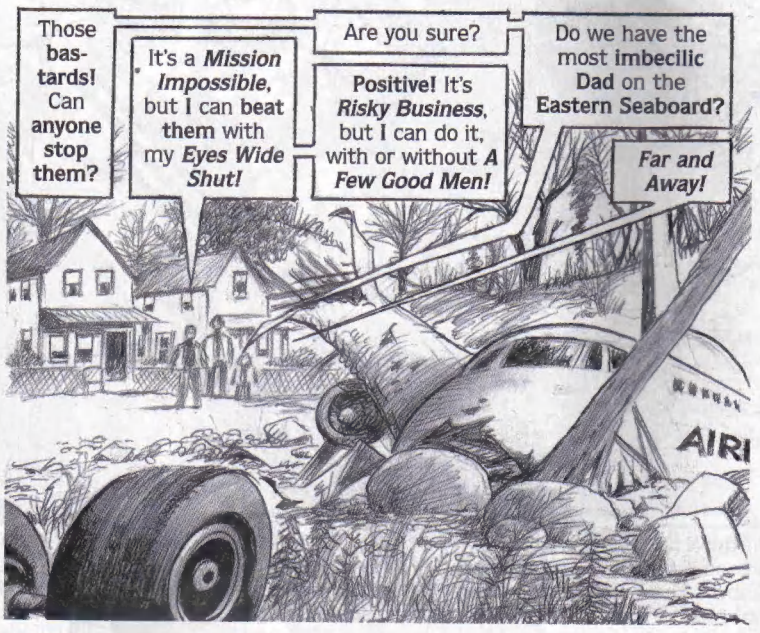

I'm dropping off the kids. It's all part of the agreement.
What agreement?
The divorce agreement! I get the kids on normal weekends. You get the kids on weekends when all hell breaks loose!

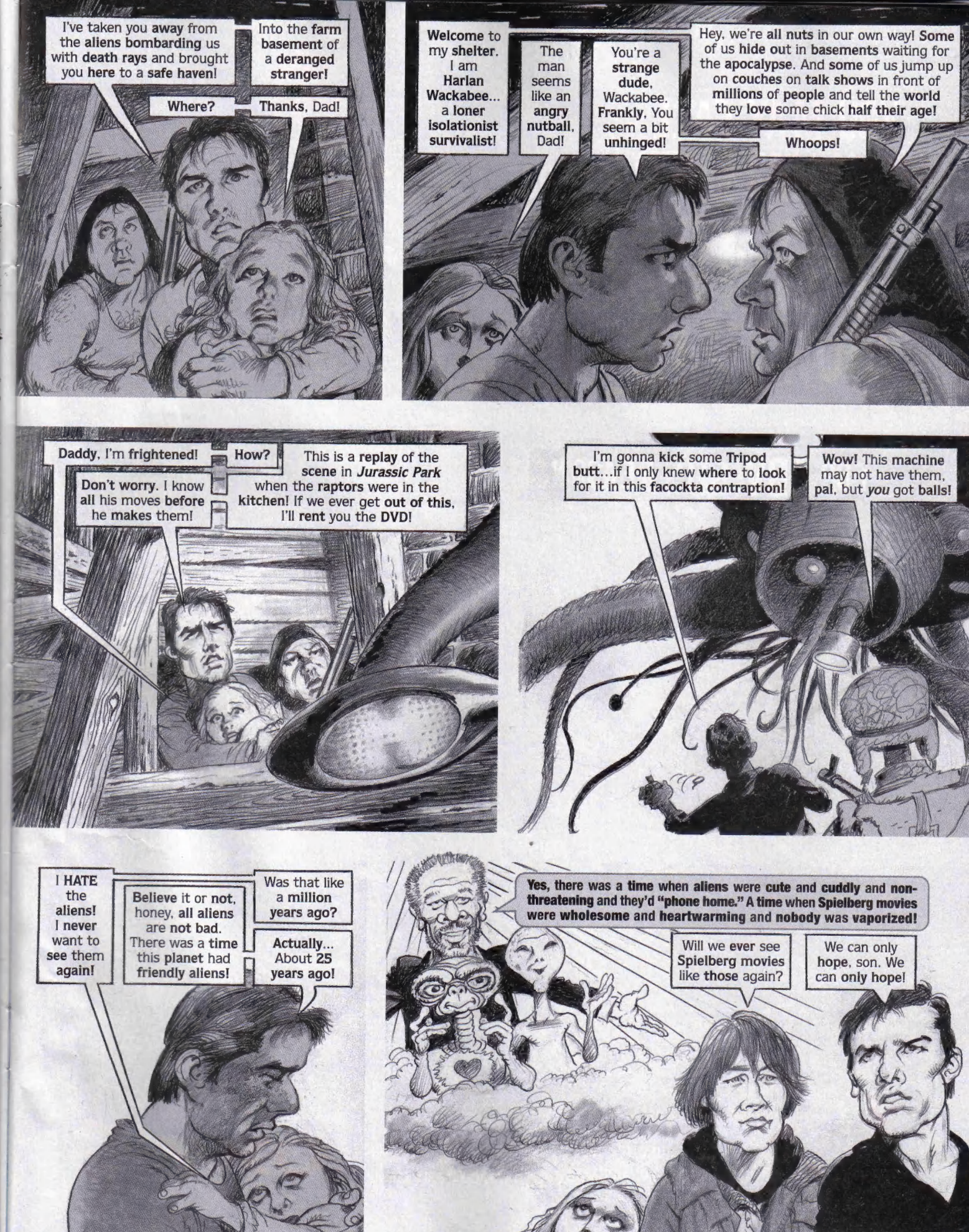
Rattle, want to see something cool? There's a weird lightning storm outside!
Hey, great parenting! Invite an 11-year-old out into a freak electrical storm! What's planned for next visit? Going to ask us to run with scissors?


What the hell are those things?
Either the New Jersey Nets drafted some very tall and very bizarre new recruits or we're in deep ca-ca!
I'll go with the deep ca-ca theory. Keep running aimlessly towards nowhere in particular for no logical purpose!
ZAP!


Isn't it amazing how we keep dodging the aliens' death rays and we're constantly inches away from vaporization?
Almost as amazing as how we seem to have the only working automobile on the planet!
Too bad Spielberg didn't write in a product placement plug for the DieHard car battery here! Sears would have paid for this entire overblown movie in a second!


What will we do to escape, Dad?
Don't call me "Dad"!
Why not? Are you sorry I'm your son?
No, we have to save that predictable moment when you DO call me "Dad" for the end of the movie so the audience will know we've finally bonded!
If there's anyone still left in the theater by then!


Those bastards! Can anyone stop them?
It's a Mission Impossible, but I can beat them with my Eyes Wide Shut!
Are you sure?
Positive! It's Risky Business, but I can do it, with or without A Few Good Men!
Do we have the most imbecilic Dad on the Eastern Seaboard?
Far and Away!


I've taken you away from the aliens bombarding us with death rays and brought you here to a safe haven!
Into the farm basement of a deranged stranger!
Where?
Thanks, Dad!
Welcome to my shelter. I am Harlan Wackabee... a loner isolationist survivalist!
The man seems like an angry nutball, Dad!
You're a strange dude, Wackabee. Frankly, You seem a bit unhinged!
Hey, we're all nuts in our own way! Some of us hide out in basements waiting for the apocalypse. And some of us jump up on couches on talk shows in front of millions of people and tell the world they love some chick half their age!
Whoops!
Daddy, I'm frightened!
How?
This is a replay of the scene in Jurassic Park when the raptors were in the kitchen! If we ever get out of this, I'll rent you the DVD!
Don't worry. I know all his moves before he makes them!
I'm gonna kick some Tripod butt...if I only knew where to look for it in this facockta contraption!
Wow! This machine may not have them, pal, but you got balls!
I HATE the aliens! I never want to see them again!
Believe it or not, honey, all aliens are not bad. There was a time this planet had friendly aliens!
Was that like a million years ago?
Actually... About 25 years ago!
Yes, there was a time when aliens were cute and cuddly and non-threatening and they'd "phone home." A time when Spielberg movies were wholesome and heartwarming and nobody was vaporized!
Will we ever see Spielberg movies like those again?
We can only hope, son. We can only hope!

WHAT THREAT TO OUR AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE NEEDS TO BE CONSTANTLY CHECKED?

HERE WE GO WITH ANOTHER RIDICULOUS

MAD FOLD-IN

Nowadays, there is trouble everywhere. It seems that danger is lurking around every corner. If we don't watch ourselves, there is one particular evil that may put us in real peril. To find out what this menace is, fold page in as shown.

FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

A FOLD PAGE OVER LEFT B FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"

THE RISK OF TERROR ATTACK IS REAL. UNENDING USE OF PUBLICITY KEEPS POLITICIANS BUSY ISSUING SUR-REAL PRONOUNCEMENTS OF THINLY VEILED GLOBAL THREATS. IT'S VITAL TO BALANCE CAMPAIGN HYPE WITH REAL EVENTS. AFTER-ALL, SAFETY IS VITAL TO EACH ONE OF US

A ARTIST AND WRITER: AL JAFFEE B